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The Chinese fake Range Rovers taking over Britain

P.19

Why you won't hear Dolly's last song for another 20 years

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The Daily Telegraph
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Germany in talks to fund Trident

Berlin looks to invest in UK's nuclear defence under plans to end Europe's reliance on US

By **Joe Barnes, James Rothwell** *and* **James Crisp**

GERMANY is in talks to invest in Britain's nuclear deterrent, *The Telegraph* understands.

Berlin is considering offering financial support for Trident as it spearheads efforts to reinforce Europe's nuclear umbrella.

One well-placed source said Germany wanted to integrate itself further into the existing British and French nuclear deterrents rather than pursue its own bomb because of the nation's wartime guilt. "We have a very strong interest that the existing nuclear powers in Europe extend their capabilities," the source said.

The discussions between Paris, Berlin and London have accelerated in recent months amid fears the Trump administration will withdraw its military from Europe. "Policymakers are waking up each morning and asking themselves what the hell the Americans are going to do tomorrow," a second diplomatic source in Germany said.

European nations are trying to bolster their defences against an ever-looming threat from Russia. Last week, Moscow deployed a warship armed with cruise and hypersonic missiles close to a German island in the Baltic Sea.

The Telegraph also revealed that Vladimir Putin had installed secret bases capable of firing high-powered drones deep into Nato territory.

Fears over European security will only be heightened after John Ratcliffe, the CIA director, made an unannounced visit to Moscow for talks with Russian military intelligence counterparts. The brief visit coincided with a US intelligence report warning that Russia might soon attempt to attack a Nato ally to test the alliance's resolve.

As part of Germany's push to reduce Europe's reliance on the US, Friedrich Merz's administration has turned its attention to enhancing nuclear capabilities. "There is thinking and talking about how the existing nuclear capabilities may play a bigger role for the defence of Europe, and of deeper cooperation among European countries," a third source said.

Berlin also believes it could contribute conventional forces to support Britain, such as deploying German-operated Patriot ground-based air-defence batteries to key locations, such as the submarine base in Faslane, Scotland, home to Britain's Trident fleet.

Britain already commits its arsenal of around 200 nuclear warheads to Nato for defence. But while the UK has full autonomy over firing its weapons, it cannot build, maintain or modernise them without American cooperation.

The Trident missiles are built in the US and are serviced there. This has become a concern in Berlin and has led to the idea that German funding for Britain's nuclear deterrent could be a solution. Successive governments in London have postponed costly decisions over modernising the Trident system because of financial constraints.

Britain is building four Dreadnought-class ballistic-missile submarines, and is also designing and preparing to produce a new generation of attack submarines with Australia and the United States.

There is also planning under way to create the UK's next nuclear warhead in a £63bn overhaul of the Trident system.

A British defence source questioned whether German industry had the relevant experience to build and maintain Britain's nuclear submarine fleet. But they acknowledged that conventional forces protecting bases such as Faslane could prove a useful offer.

The Ministry of Defence said: "Our nuclear deterrent is the cornerstone of our national security, protecting the UK and our Nato allies every moment of every day. We remain the only European Ally to commit its nuclear deterrent to the defence of Nato."

Dozens of Britons feared dead as flash floods hit Nepal

By **Samuel Montgomery, Memphis Barker** *and* **Samaan Lateef**

DOZENS of British citizens including a 13-year-old girl are among hundreds of tourists missing after massive floods swept through Nepal and Tibet.

At least 160 people have been killed by the torrents that struck suddenly yesterday morning following a suspected avalanche. More than 600 remain unaccounted for, according to Nepalese authorities.

Walls of water crashed over border infrastructure, swept away villages and broke bridges in half as they surged down the Bhotekoshi river.

Nepalese police said 579 tourists were missing, including 466 foreigners from 28 different counties.

The figure included 33 British nationals and 54 Americans, many of whom were undertaking pilgrimages to the Kailash mountain in Tibet that is revered by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains.

"The entire nation has been left shocked and deeply distressed," said Balendra Shah, the prime minister of Nepal, adding that he spoke with a "heavy heart" following the disaster.

More than 24 miles of road and 19 bridges have been destroyed, the prime minister's office said. Rescue missions were launched on both sides of the border, with Nepal's army saying it had airlifted more than 100 people to safety. Chinese state media said three people had died and 265 were missing in the autonomous region of Tibet.

Among the missing are 12 British citizens who were on a tour to the Kailash mountain, according to the manager of the Alpine Eco Trek service guiding their visit. "There was a big earthquake. After the tremor, 15 minutes later, the flood came," Ram Kumar Adhikari told *The Telegraph*.

He said the tour group had probably crossed into Tibet "because both guides went offline at 8.42am", most probably because of the Chinese internet firewall that blocks Western messaging applications. "The whole area was swept away by the flood. Even the Tibet immigration office."

The age of the missing Britons ranged from 13 to 65, according to travel logs seen by the Press Association.

Andy Burnham, the Prime Minister, said: "These scenes emerging from along the Nepal-China border are devastating. My thoughts are with all those affected, including the families and loved ones of British nationals missing."

A bridge in the Trishuli Bazaar area of Nuwakot District, in Bagmati Province, was washed away by the flash floods. Left, rescue staff carry a victim to safety

Report: Page 5

Meta to pay £13bn and boost child safety in 'Big Tobacco' moment

By **James Titcomb** *and* **James Warrington**

META will restrict how children can use Instagram and Facebook during school hours and at night as part of an $18bn (£13.2bn) settlement over claims it deliberately made its apps addictive for teenagers.

The social media giant agreed with 52 US territories and states yesterday to end a lawsuit claiming that it had harmed children for years while concealing the truth about the risks of social media.

The UK Government said that it was monitoring events closely as it moved ahead with a ban on under-16s using social media – raising the prospect that it could demand Meta makes similar changes in Britain.

The US lawsuit has been called social media's "Big Tobacco" moment. The resulting settlement means teenagers in most of the US will not be able to access Facebook and Instagram between midnight and 6am, and notifications will be silenced between 8am and 3pm.

They will also be subject to a two-hour daily limit, receive regular alerts warning against over-use and face stricter age-checks. Teenagers will not be able to see how many likes are on their posts, or other people's posts, while the apps will also ban "extreme makeup" filters for teenagers.

William Tong, Connecticut's attorney general, one of the prosecutors who had pursued Meta, said: "Meta strip-mined the souls of America's children for maximum profit with abusive and addictive features that unleashed a youth mental health catastrophe. That ends now."

Lawyers for the states had told the court that Meta's business model was to "hook the users [and] hide the truth" about the damage caused by its apps. Meta, which denied wrongdoing as part of the deal, has agreed to pay $18bn in total to the states, which had been seeking $200bn in damages. It is made up of $16.7bn in payments to the states, a further payment related to the Cambridge Analytica privacy scandal, and a separate $1bn fine paid to Texas.

Of the total, $5.3bn will only be paid if Meta's main rivals YouTube and TikTok agree to introduce similar safety measures and pay their own fines worth a combined $5.3bn. The unusual fee structure is designed to ensure that Meta's rivals face equal restrictions. The settlement lasts for 10 years, and covers 47 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories of American Samoa, North Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico.

CJ Mahoney, Meta's chief legal officer, said: "The framework we've negotiated will empower parents to easily manage how their children access our platforms."

The settlement means Mark Zuckerberg, Meta's chief executive, will not have to take the stand. He was due to testify in the case in the coming days.

Adam Mosseri, the head of Instagram, had defended the company's actions on Tuesday, claiming that it had built features that would limit usage of the app, but that teenagers "didn't want" to use it.

Shares in Meta, which tried to halt the trial this month, initially climbed by 4.5 per cent after the settlement emerged, but later traded up around 1.4 per cent. The maximum amount it could have paid if it lost the case would have been $1.4tn, according to its own estimates. This would have been close to the company's entire value.

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ISSN 0307-1235

NEWS

Maccabi police chief in misconduct inquiry

A former chief constable of West Midlands Police is being investigated for gross misconduct over his role in banning Maccabi Tel Aviv football fans from an Aston Villa match. Craig Guildford is being investigated by the Independent Office for Police Conduct alongside three officers and a staff member. Mr Guildford stepped down after an official inquiry found that "greatly exaggerated" intelligence was used to justify the ban on Israeli football fans on safety grounds.
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NEWS

Harper killers to stay in jail, suggests minister

The Justice Secretary is "confident" two of the killers of Pc Andrew Harper will be barred from early release from prison, police chiefs have been told. Alex Norris is expected to announce changes to the early release scheme which are expected to exclude the subset of manslaughter for which the pair were convicted in 2020. Albert Bowers and Jessie Cole were in the car that dragged the officer for more than a mile along country roads after his ankles became caught in a tow rope.
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MATT

'I'm trying not to break the speed limit. I'm not kerb crawling'

Farewell, Dr Frank-N-Furter

Tim Curry obituary: Page 25

NEWS

France's big cheeses win relief from heat

France has relaxed the rules governing some of its most famous cheeses after a "historic" drought forced a change to cows' diets. The government granted emergency exemptions to the strict appellation regulations protecting Comté, Beaufort and Abondance after months without rain left Alpine and Jura pastures dry. The rules are normally strictly applied. These clearly stipulate that the cheeses' protected status rests not just on where they are made but on what their cows eat.
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THE BEST PUBS IN THE UK 2026

Explore our definitive guide to the nation's greatest pubs, curated by our panel of experts

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT TELEGRAPH.CO.UK/BESTPUBS

Misconduct probe into Maccabi police chief's fan ban

Official inquiry found that 'greatly exaggerated' intelligence was used to ban Israeli football fans

By **Charles Hymas**
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

A FORMER chief constable of West Midlands Police is being investigated for gross misconduct.

It concerns his role in banning Maccabi Tel Aviv football fans from an Aston Villa match in Birmingham.

Craig Guildford is being investigated by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) alongside three officers and a staff member.

Mr Guildford stepped down from his post in England's second-biggest police force after an official inquiry found that "greatly exaggerated" intelligence was used to justify the ban on Israeli football fans on safety grounds.

The IOPC said yesterday he would be investigated for gross misconduct over claims that he failed to ensure due diligence in the intelligence report before the Europa League game at Villa Park.

Police 'lied and lied again' over Maccabi fan ban

How The Telegraph reported the claims against former chief constable Guildford

Eight errors were found in the report, including overstating Maccabi supporters' role in disorder in Amsterdam in 2024, and referencing a non-existent game between Maccabi and West Ham, said to have been produced by Microsoft's AI Copilot.

The IOPC said it examined 600 pieces of evidence including operational documents, reports, intelligence research, minutes of meetings, and correspondence including emails and messages as well as witness statements.

It said this evidence indicated Mr Guildford "may have had oversight" over the report which was found to contain "inaccuracies and misleading information".

The briefing was found to have presented an "imbalanced view" of the risk the away fans posed, said the IOPC.

A senior serving officer is under investigation for failing to ensure the accuracy of the briefing, while a staff member involved in researching and compiling intelligence is alleged to have sourced inaccurate information from AI searches which he then failed to ensure was not included in the briefing. Two other senior serving officers who played important roles in the force's planning for the game have been notified that they are being investigated for potential misconduct.

Chris Philp, the shadow home secretary, welcomed the investigation, but said: "This scandal should have been dealt with by the police and crime commissioner Simon Foster months ago. The police should never allow themselves to be dictated to by Islamist anti-Semitic extremists, which is what happened here."

Mr Guildford, 52, who had a £220,000-a-year salary and retired on a full pension, retired with immediate effect on Jan 16, two days after a damning report led Shabana Mahmood, the Home Secretary, to declare she had lost confidence in him.

He believed he could hang on until Simon Foster, the West Midlands police and crime commissioner, decided his fate, a decision that was not due for at least 10 days, with Ms Mahmood having no legal power to oust him.

But he was heavily criticised by Cabinet ministers. Downing Street made it clear that Sir Keir Starmer had lost confidence and fellow chiefs told him that his clinging to office risked damaging the police's reputation nationally.

It also became clear to Mr Guildford that the row would be a distraction for months. One senior policing source had described him after the report as a "dead man walking".

Mr Guildford did not offer an apology and blamed what he described as the "political and media frenzy" for his decision to step down.

West Midlands Police admitted that it "overstated the evidence" used to make the decision to ban the Maccabi fans.

STEPHEN LOCK

Reading to rock Music fans arrive for the Reading Festival, which will run from today until Sunday, with headliners including Charli xcx, Chase & Status, Raye and Fontaines D.C.

Meloni 'didn't warn Badenoch against pact with Reform'

By **Nick Gutteridge** *and* **Nick Squires** *in Rome*

GIORGIA Meloni's allies have denied claims she told Kemi Badenoch not to make an electoral pact with Reform UK.

Sources close to the Italian prime minister denied reports she urged the Tory leader to "be your own woman and stand your ground" against those on the Right calling for a coalition with Nigel Farage.

The controversy erupted over a briefing, apparently delivered by Conservative aides, about talks between the pair on Monday.

Mrs Badenoch travelled to Rome for coffee with Ms Meloni, whose Brothers of Italy party is leading the opinion polls a year out from the next Italian election.

The next day, a report appeared in *The Times* which was initially headlined: "Giorgia Meloni warns Kemi Badenoch against deal with Reform."

In the story, the Italian prime minister was quoted as telling the Tory leader to "stand her ground" and "be herself" in relation to a pact with Mr Farage.

But a source close to Ms Meloni said she had "never suggested to Mrs Badenoch that she should not ally with Nigel Farage and his Reform UK party".

They added: "Meloni, who has no reason to be hostile towards Farage and his movement, renewed her respect for and friendship with Badenoch and the Tories... but did not enter and does not want to enter into domestic political dynamics and relations between British parties."

The Times' story was later amended to remove the references to a Reform-Tory pact.

Tory sources insisted the conversation between the pair focused on the relative challenges they have faced in their countries as Right-wing leaders.

Mrs Badenoch has come under pressure as a result of the rise of Reform, which has surged in the opinion polls by eating into the Tory vote.

Italy's prime minister Giogia Meloni, left, and Kemi Badenoch, the Tory leader

While speaking about her own battles, Ms Meloni did reflect on the need to be strong and trust your own judgment, but did not talk about Mr Farage. The reports were nonetheless seized upon by Reform, which accused Mrs Badenoch of having "made up" the original claims. Robert Jenrick, the party's economic spokesman, told a press conference: "It was obviously very, very embarrassing for Kemi Badenoch.

"My advice, if you go visit a foreign leader, is don't make up a pack of lies about what they say. That's clearly going to hurt your relationship.

"I have meetings with people, Nigel has meetings with leaders around the world and keeps those conversations private. We could tell she was making it up."

Mr Farage also weighed in, adding: "I don't see a single quote from Giorgia Meloni herself. I see what Kemi Badenoch tells us Giorgia Meloni said."

In a message posted on X following the meeting, Mrs Badenoch praised Ms Meloni for having brought Italy out of the economic "doldrums".

She wrote: "Today Italy's borrowing costs are lower than Britain's. Markets and investors have more confidence in Giorgia Meloni's Italy than in Labour's Britain.

"She has restored confidence in Italy, brought job creators back and shown what serious centre-Right government can achieve.

"I wanted to understand how she did it, because after Labour, Britain is going to need exactly that kind of resolve and Conservatives are going to deliver it."

A Tory spokesman said: "The Conservatives have not made any false claims.

"Reform are just making things up and peddling conspiracy theories to distract from their fishy £5m donation scandal and the police investigation into Robert Jenrick."

Police have launched an investigation into a £37,500 donation to Mr Jenrick's campaign to become Conservative leader, as questions mount over political funding following Mr Farage's £5m gift from a cryptocurrency billionaire.

NEWS BULLETIN

Boy, 15, held after fatal stabbing at civic centre

A boy of 15 has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a teenager was stabbed to death at a council headquarters.

David Wynter, 17, died on Tuesday at Brent Civic Centre, in Wembley, north-west London. The suspect was arrested on the same day and is in custody, the Metropolitan Police said.

Emergency services were called to the building, which is where Brent council's headquarters and a library are based, after violence erupted.

Some staff, residents and visitors saw the fatal attack, according to Brent council leader Muhammed Butt, who said the community had been left "shaken" by the incident.

Reform's £30 rebate for HMRC phone queuers

Reform has pledged a £30 tax rebate for taxpayers stuck on hold for more than half an hour while trying to speak to HMRC. Up to two credits would be offered in every tax year to those who wait at least 30 minutes.

Robert Jenrick, Reform's Treasury spokesman, said: "The British people have lost countless hours of their lives stuck on the phone to HMRC. Under Reform, that ends."

An HMRC spokesman said: "Our customer service performance has improved significantly with average call wait times now around 11 minutes.

"Customer satisfaction is at around 80 per cent with more people than ever using our digital services."

Trans woman guilty of 'chilling' kidnap bid

A transgender woman drove a van into a lone woman during a "chilling" attempt to kidnap her, a court heard.

Safiya Anna Haverty, 28, formerly known as Sean Haverty, has been convicted of striking the woman with the vehicle from behind without warning. She managed to escape her attacker near Andover, in Hants, on March 2, and ran to safety, alerting members of the public nearby.

A jury at Winchester Crown Court found Haverty guilty of kidnap, intentional strangulation, and assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Haverty was also convicted of perverting the course of justice. Haverty will be sentenced on Nov 13.

Grint returns as Ron Weasley... on Broadway

Rupert Grint has said it feels "so special" to reprise his role as Ron Weasley in a Broadway production of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*.

The 38 year-old rose to fame in 2001 after starring in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* as the red-headed wizard.

He returned to the role for all eight films in the franchise, based on the JK Rowling fantasy novels, opposite Daniel Radcliffe and Emma Watson.

Grint is back in the role 15 years after the release of the last film to play the beloved character for a 17-week run at the Lyric Theatre, in New York. Grint said: "Ron Weasley has been a part of me since I was 11 and I can't wait to meet him again in this stage of life."

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No fanfare (or police escort) on Duke's return

Sussexes and children touch down yesterday for 'extended' stay with their own private security team

By **Hannah Furness** ROYAL EDITOR

THE Duke and Duchess of Sussex have returned to Britain without close police protection in place as they begin an "extended" stay with their children.

The Sussexes, who arrived at Birmingham airport at lunchtime yesterday, were not granted a publicly funded police convoy for the journey to their new home.

The family will now spend time settling in privately, before Prince Archie, seven, and Princess Lilibet, five, join a British school for the start of the autumn term. They are being supported by their own protection team, and were met by a van and two blacked-out cars after their overnight flight from California.

It is only the third time Princess Lilibet is known to have been in Britain. Prince Archie was born in his father's homeland, but moved to Canada and then the US with his parents before his first birthday. The family made a short visit to Britain in July for a summer holiday, with the Duchess sharing photographs of their time at Althorp on her Instagram page.

The Duke and Duchess are moving to Britain six years after they left the working Royal family. Their UK home is thought to be in the Cotswolds, where they previously rented a property.

They plan to live as an "international" family, keeping their homes in California and Portugal. A source told *The Telegraph*: "How long will they stay? I don't know, but it will be for an extended period. Whether that's six months, a year, two years... who knows."

The couple are bringing their dogs, Mia and Pula, with them, but are keeping their chickens in Montecito rather than rehoming them. The Duke and Duchess will not resume their pre-2020 roles as working members of the Royal family.

While their allies signal that the Sussexes hope to be "half-in, half-out", in the model of their tour of Australia this year, the King and Prince of Wales are said to be united in upholding the terms of the Sandringham summit.

Then, Elizabeth II ruled that the Duke and Duchess of Sussex could not adopt a part-time working role in the Royal family while also making money in the way they had proposed.

The King and Queen hosted the Duke and Duchess, Prince Archie and Princess Lilibet, for tea at Highgrove in July.

The meeting was said to have gone well, but details of what was said between father and son have not yet been revealed. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Sussex are no longer in personal contact.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex's private jet lands in Birmingham yesterday to begin their extended stay in the UK

The Sussexes lost their right to full-time taxpayer-funded police protection when they ceased to be working members of the Royal family. Now, they must give notice of their intention to be in Britain and their security is decided on a case-by-case basis.

Prince Harry has appealed to Ravec, the Home Office committee responsible for the decision, and in the High Court. The Duke previously insisted it was too dangerous to bring his wife and children back to the UK without this protection.

A risk assessment for the Sussexes was carried out last month, but the outcome has not yet been shared with them. Prince Harry is expected to embark on charity engagements including the WellChild awards in early September, while the Duchess is planning to continue her As Ever business. The Duke and Duchess married at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, in May 2018. In March 2019, Buckingham Palace announced they would set up their own household, breaking from the joint operation they had with the then Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

In January 2020, the Sussexes announced they intended to step back as "senior" members of the Royal family. The late Queen ruled at the Sandringham summit, which was convened to resolve the crisis, that the couple could not be "half-in, half-out".

By March 2020, they had set up a permanent home in California, officially stepped down as senior royals and stopped using their HRH styles.

Since their "farewell tour", the Duchess has only returned to Britain with her husband for the late Queen's funeral and a family holiday in July.

Editorial Comment: Page 15

Meghan's next big role? Managing the school run and keeping the jam rolling

Hannah Furness

FOR this next phase of their lives, there had been talk of an "extended stay", of Harry and Meghan remaining an "international couple". But first, there is a new school for the children and a decision for their parents: what now? In Prince Harry's case, the year is mapped out ahead of him, mostly in Britain and largely focused on the lead-up to the Invictus Games.

And the Duchess? She will start with the basics at home, sources said. "It's settling the kids in and settling themselves in," said one. "Very normal stuff." Prince Archie, seven, was born in Britain but left with his parents before he turned one. Princess Lilibet, his five-year-old sister, is here for only the third time, after a recent mini-break in locations including Earl Spencer's Althorp estate.

They start at a prep school in September, learning if not a new language then at least a new accent.

Their mother, who will run her As Ever business from Britain and return to California frequently, will focus on getting them settled into a routine of school and clubs.

Early next month, the Duke has a pre-arranged week of appearances with his patronages, scheduled around the WellChild Awards. Such was the speed of the move that arrangements will only be confirmed with some charities in the coming days. The Duchess is understood to make the decisions about whether to join her husband at his events and may yet appear with him to promote Invictus.

She had planned to visit Britain with him in July, before pulling out at the last minute over security concerns.

A source said: "We keep it flexible." Everything, the source added, will start with the children settling into their new schedule, from which all other decisions will "flow".

> 'The Duke is committed to working largely in his home country until the Invictus Games'

The marketing of As Ever will continue with seasonal ranges of fruit spreads and Californian wine. Although the Sussexes' move was a surprise when it was revealed by *The Telegraph* last week, it had been in the works for some time. It was "something they've talked about as a couple for a while", confirmed a confidant. Asked how the Sussexes had kept it under wraps for months, one source said: "If you want to keep a secret, don't tell anyone."

The Duke and Duchess do not have firm plans for their length of stay in Britain, with sources indicating that it could be "six months, a year, two years ... who knows". However, one source suggested they would not want to uproot their children from a new school too quickly.

The Duke is committed to working largely in his home country until the Invictus Games in Birmingham in July 2027. The move will not be straightforward. The Duke and Duchess agreed to the terms of Elizabeth II's Sandringham summit in 2020, and the King intends to uphold them, with support from the Prince of Wales. The Sussexes will not be "half-in, half-out" members of the Royal family. There will be no working roles and no official appearances at palaces. While they may be seen with the family on private occasions, their inclusion at key moments of the royal calendar – summer in Balmoral or Christmas at Sandringham – will be at the invitation of the King. Prince Harry is said to hope for a public reunion with his father. But long-term royal observers warn that it will be a "long road", and the Sussexes must prove they can be trusted. Details of the reunion tea at Highgrove with the King and Queen have not yet been leaked.

> 'Harry is said to hope for a public reunion with his father. Observers say it will be a long road'

His family's security, about which Harry has been so vocal, is not yet resolved. Their arrival at Birmingham airport was supervised by their personal protection officers rather than a taxpayer-funded police convoy.

While a Home Office committee review has taken place, it is understood that the Sussexes are not yet aware of the outcome.

The Duke's court cases against the media have finished for now, the latest a wholesale victory for the publishers of the *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday*.

His concerns over elements of the British press are well known, but he seems to have overcome them to some extent in deciding to move back.

For the next week or so, the Duke and Duchess are expected to let the dust settle. And of the future? They are, says a source, "excited".

King and Queen to 'celebrate cultures' in tour of Caribbean

By **Hannah Furness**

THE King and Queen will tour Antigua and Barbuda in the autumn, with the King also visiting the Bahamas and Guyana.

His Majesty will embark on a nine-day trip on Oct 27, travelling first to the Bahamas, where he is head of state. He will then go to Guyana for a state visit to mark 60 years of bilateral relations between the UK and the South American country.

He will then be joined by the Queen to visit Antigua and Barbuda. Their time there will coincide with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting for 2026, which will be held from Nov 1 to 4.

The King and Queen's Caribbean tour was announced shortly after the Duke and Duchess of Sussex returned to the UK to set up home.

The Duke and Duchess landed at Birmingham Airport just before midday yesterday.

The then Prince of Wales and Camilla visited Saint Kitts and Nevis in 2019

Their Majesties are currently at Balmoral in Scotland for their annual summer break. Buckingham Palace said the Caribbean tour would "celebrate communities, cultures and nature within the Commonwealth family".

The King visited Antigua and Barbuda in November 2017, when he was Prince of Wales, following the devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. It will be the Queen's first official visit to Antigua and Barbuda.

Previously, the King made official visits to Guyana in 2000 and the Bahamas in 1973.

Diana vowed to teach sons the 'importance of communication'

By **Telegraph Reporter**

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES, pledged to teach her sons "the importance of communicating on a deeper level" in a letter written one week after her BBC *Panorama* interview.

She said she looked forward to "sharing my knowledge" with William and Harry in the message, which will go on sale in September.

Her advice seems particularly prescient 31 years on as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex move back to Britain after six years in California. It is hoped the move may lead to a reconciliation with the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The Princess told Martin Bashir, the disgraced journalist, that there were "three of us in this marriage" in the *Panorama* interview watched by 23 million people in November 1995.

Her incendiary statement was a reference to the King's affair with Camilla Parker Bowles.

Michael Barratt watched the interview and sympathised with the Princess's plight, writing to her to tell her that life would improve in time.

His upbeat message struck a chord with the Princess as she replied straight away. She wrote: "I returned from Argentina this morning to find your lovely letter awaiting me. The content touched me deeply as your words were profound + I was particularly able to relate to the point you made about

> 'Diana's wish takes on a tragic significance when you consider that she had very little time left'

self-knowledge + the price of moving on in life. I hope the *Panorama* interview will help + support the many women out there who are, or have, gone through similar difficulties as myself.

"I look forward to the future where I will have the opportunity of sharing my knowledge + teaching William + Harry the importance of communicating on a deep level. The support + understanding you have shown in your letter is invaluable + I thank you from the bottom of my heart. With my best wishes, yours sincerely, Diana."

The letter was sold by an Essex auction house for £5,330 in June, but has already returned to the market with the University Archives of Connecticut.

John Reznikoff, the auctioneer, said: "The Princess Diana letter is one of the best and most emotionally revealing handwritten royal letters that I have ever seen in 47 years.

"The exact historical context of the letter – being just a week after the infamous *Panorama* interview, and about one month before Charles and Diana were essentially ordered to divorce by Elizabeth II – provides us with insights into an extraordinary moment in time.

"The wish Diana expresses in her letter takes on a tragic significance when you consider that she had very little time left in which to do so, this letter dating less than two years before the Paris car crash."

News

Minister confident Pc's killers will stay in jail

Justice Secretary set to announce exemption to Labour's early release scheme after public outcry

By **Charles Hymas**
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

THE Justice Secretary is confident two of the killers of Pc Andrew Harper will be barred from early release from prison, police chiefs have been told.

Alex Norris is expected to announce changes to the early release scheme next week which are expected to exclude the subset of manslaughter for which the pair were convicted in 2020. Albert Bowers and Jessie Cole, who were jailed for 13 years for the manslaughter of Pc Harper, were in the car that dragged the officer for more than a mile along country roads after his ankles became caught in a towrope.

The Telegraph revealed last month that they were among some 6,000 criminals eligible for early release either halfway through their sentence, rather than two-thirds, or after serving just a third rather than 40 per cent of their prison terms.

The early release scheme is a central plank of the Government's efforts to avoid running out of prison space.

Labour initially agreed to exempt 1,000 rapists and child groomers from the early release scheme but not those convicted of manslaughter. However, after pressure by all the UK's police

Albert Bowers and Jessie Cole were in the car that dragged Pc Harper to death

chiefs, frontline officers and a million-strong petition, Mr Burnham announced a further review by Mr Norris to find a way to exempt the two killers and "other individuals".

Police chiefs have been told that he plans to introduce secondary legislation – a mechanism to change existing laws quickly – to enact the changes which are likely to cover manslaughter, rape and child grooming. It is expected to exclude "unlawful act" manslaughter, where a person causes the death of another while committing an illegal act.

Bowers and Cole were attempting to steal a quad bike when they fled as Pc Harper arrived to investigate. The driver, Henry Long, who was jailed for 16 years is excluded from early release.

It is understood the unlawful killing exemption could extend to include death by dangerous driving but not voluntary manslaughter – an intentional killing with a partial defence such as sudden provocation – or gross negligence manslaughter where death is caused by extreme carelessness.

It is also thought that domestic abusers may not be exempted from the early release scheme, partly because there is no specific offence to cover them apart from coercive control. Any such move is likely to spark an angry backlash from domestic abuse campaigners and some MPs. Police chiefs have also been assured there will be no changes to the remand of suspects into custody or recalls of offenders to jail for breaches of licence or further crimes.

There have been demands from some prison insiders to reduce the 17,000 prisoners on remand, nearly a fifth of the total, and 12,000 recalled offenders in jails to reduce the chronic overcrowding.

The 2026 Sentencing Act increased the length of time prisoners recalled to jail had to spend in custody to 56 days in order to give more time to prepare their re-release to avoid further licence breaches or reoffending. Police chiefs including Sir Mark Rowley have also complained that too many offenders are being freed on bail to continue their criminal behaviour because of courts' concerns about prison overcrowding.

The Justice Secretary is looking to repurpose parts of the young offender institutions and the women's prison estate to free up space. It is thought unlikely that Mr Norris will announce any immediate decisions on such changes.

An MoJ spokesman said: "The death of Pc Andrew Harper was a horrific crime. The Prime Minister has asked the Justice Secretary to work through further options to keep a greater number of the most serious offenders in prison, including the killers of Pc Harper."

RICHARD POHLE/THE TIMES/PA WIRE

Slice of life Andy Burnham, with the help of London Mayor Sir Sadiq Khan, centre, and Pat McFadden, the Work and Pensions Secretary, stacks loaves on to a shelf in Nine Elms, south-west London, to promote Sainsbury's plan to offer 10,000 work experience opportunities to young people.

Benefits system flawed and writes people off, says McFadden

By **Emma Taggart**

BRITAIN'S benefits system is flawed and leaves people written off from work, Pat McFadden has warned.

The Work and Pensions Secretary said Britain's main unemployment benefit, Universal Credit, was too "black and white" and caused many people to be signed off from work indefinitely.

He said: "There's a design flaw in the Universal Credit system, which too readily separates people into fit for work and unfit for work, and when they are unfit for work, leaves them without any support or any conditions.

"I think that distinction is too black and white in the system as it stands. It's something that I think they need to change."

Mr McFadden was speaking at Boots' headquarters in Nottingham as the first wave of young people to qualify for the Government's Jobs Guarantee programme, which encourages employers to hire youth workers, started in new roles.

Official figures show there were 8.4 million people on Universal Credit in May this year. Of these, 4.27 million had no requirement to look for work.

It marks a dramatic rise from a year earlier when 3.5 million people were claiming Universal Credit and were signed off work indefinitely.

Mr McFadden said that Britain needed to change the "culture of being signed off and written off".

The growing numbers of people on benefits comes as Britain's welfare bill is expected to climb in the coming years.

Forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility show that welfare spending is estimated to rise from £352.8bn this financial year to £406.9bn by 2030-31.

Under the Jobs Guarantee scheme, which is aimed at tackling under-25s unemployment, young people who have been on Universal Credit for more than 18 months will be eligible for the six-month placement. The Work and Pensions Secretary said "there should be an expectation to engage with that offer", with sanctions imposed for those who decline a placement.

PM risks Labour split with trade ban on West Bank settlements

By **Dominic Penna**
SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ANDY Burnham is poised to announce a ban on trade with settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

He has already pledged sanctions against Benjamin Netanyahu's government in response to controversial plans for thousands of new settler homes.

The Prime Minister is now considering a trade embargo within weeks. New sanctions on Israel would risk further harming relations, already deteriorating over the Israeli prime minister's plans to construct 3,300 homes in the E1 zone of the West Bank.

Such a move would also cause a split in Labour ranks. Backbenchers have been divided on Middle East policy since the Oct 7 terror attacks and the war in Gaza.

Labour Friends of Israel has warned it would be impossible to ban trade from settlements only, making the plans a "*de facto* boycott of all of Israel". On Tuesday, a senior government source told *The Times* that Mr Burnham wanted to take a more "robust" approach towards Israel than Sir Keir Starmer, his predecessor, and suggested he would sign off on a trade ban.

Downing Street insisted that reports on the measures it was looking to introduce were no more than speculation.

Mr Miliband has already hinted at further sanctions against Israel after Mr Netanyahu published a tender for the construction of the E1 project, which opponents fear would effectively cut the West Bank in two and prevent a contiguous body of land forming the basis of a viable Palestinian state. Mr Miliband called proposals "unacceptable".

Israel responded by saying that the Foreign Secretary's "patronising" criticism of its West Bank plans had damaged Britain's relationship with them.

More than 140 Labour MPs, equivalent to one-third of the Parliamentary Labour Party, have signed an open letter calling for a ban on trade with settlements. The issue is also expected to surface at the party's annual conference in Liverpool next month, with grassroots activists expected to table a motion in favour of an embargo if one has not already been announced.

Labour Friends of Israel said: "This would be deeply damaging to the UK national interest, the British Jewish community and Palestinian workers.

"Moreover, with a general election on Oct 27, there is a real risk that untargeted action feeds the 'siege mentality' of the Israeli right and is thus politically damaging to Israel's opposition, which is leading in the polls and will bring about a substantive change in direction."

A settlement trading ban could also harm relations between Mr Burnham and Donald Trump's White House.

Labour lost a significant amount of support to the Greens and pro-Palestinian independents over Sir Keir's initial refusal to call for an immediate ceasefire in the wake of the Oct 7 attacks.

Burnham's £1,000 replica door for No 10 North won't face street

By **Dominic Penna**

ANDY BURNHAM has spent almost £1,000 of taxpayers' money on a replica door for No 10 North that will not be installed on the front of the building.

Instead, the door will stand inside, along with a cardboard cut-out of Larry the cat.

A freedom of information request reveals the cost of buying and transporting the door to Manchester was £978.87. The Cabinet Office has also revealed the set-up costs of No 10 North totalled £49,000 in its first month.

The Burnham administration's interim northern headquarters is housed at Heron House in Manchester's city centre, with a permanent site not expected to be fully functional until 2032.

Mr Burnham has committed to spending at least one day a week working from his new northern base, and said that its opening last month was one of the happiest days of his life. The cost had reached £48,817.33 by Aug 24, according to figures obtained by Reason, a US website.

While the office space at Heron House, already used by the Government, comes at no extra cost, the new

The replica door was part of a £48k cost to set up No 10 North in Manchester

costs have included £19,000 on IT and communications infrastructure, while physically branding the No 10 office cost £10,527.20.

Event equipment, lighting and flagpoles added up to £6,082.38, while 24 meeting chairs were bought and transported to Manchester at a cost of £954.16.

An order of "sundries" from Amazon totalled £971.86, with five sign frames costing £17.20 and works to the office space £8,799.

No 10 North will take on responsibility for economic growth from the Treasury in what Mr Burnham has called a "huge transfer of power". He said that this will give his Government "maximum power to unblock the blockages where they exist" in Whitehall and the Civil Service.

The costs associated with No 10 North are expected to balloon significantly in the coming years, and will be published in future annual Cabinet Office accounts and reports.

Originally painted green, the now iconic black No 10 door in Downing Street is blast-proof, guarded around the clock, has no keyhole and includes a letter plate that does not open.

The original 18th-century oak door was moved to the Churchill Museum after an IRA mortar attack on the building in 1991, but two blast-proof doors are in regular use and alternate every few years for maintenance.

Labour peer claims Reform is 'building next road to Auschwitz'

By **Dominic Penna**

A LABOUR peer has claimed that Reform UK is "building the next road to Auschwitz" after the party unveiled plans to evict foreign-born nationals from social housing.

Lord Sikka appeared to liken Nigel Farage's party to the Nazis in a post sent from his BlueSky account in response to Reform's housing policy.

The post said: "Reform says it would put foreign-born UK citizens lower on social housing list [sic]. Couples with a foreign-born partner will face discrimination.

"Children of UK citizens will be denied social housing because one parent was born abroad. They don't hide racism. Reform [is] building the next road to Auschwitz."

Reform has complained to Labour's chief whip about the post.

The party's plan for the biggest shake-up of social housing in a generation would prioritise young British married working couples with children, along with military veterans.

Foreign-born nationals would be evicted from council homes after being given three months to find alternative accommodation. Lee Anderson, the Reform chairman, has written to Lord Kennedy, the Labour chief whip in the Lords, to express "grave concern" about Lord Sikka's post.

Mr Anderson said: "Members of the House of Lords are very much held in high regard and they should absolutely be held accountable for their words and actions. Given the recent rise in political attacks, in particular on Reform UK figures, including the recent murder of Ann Widdecombe, I hope you will take swift and decisive action in relation to the matter I raise with you."

Lord Sikka appeared to liken Nigel Farage's party to the Nazis in a post sent from his BlueSky account

Ann Widdecombe, a former Conservative minister who later became a Reform UK spokesman, was found dead last month at her home in Haytor, Devon. Joshua Kerry, 28, was charged with her murder on July 20. .

Mr Anderson continued: "This is a deeply offensive post and should be called out, especially when it was made by an active member of the Labour Party group in the House of Lords."

An analysis of social media posts by Lord Sikka, who became a peer in 2020, shows that it is the sixth time he has accused Reform of seeking to build "the next road to Auschwitz".

He said last September: "Nigel Farage announces plan to deport legal immigrants. Will split families. Will resisters end up in concentration camps?

"Plans to deny welfare benefits to those who worked, paid taxes. Produces false financial savings numbers.

"Will the next road to Auschwitz go through Clacton?"

And in a post last week, he shared an article warning that Reform's welfare policy would plunge hundreds of thousands of children into poverty, saying: "People with terminal illness, blindness, learning, other disabilities would lose benefits. Employers would be forced to cover employee benefit payments for two years' of illness. Reform building the next road to Auschwitz."

Yesterday, Labour said that Lord Sikka's BlueSky post had been removed but did not suggest it would take any further action against him. Lord Sikka has been contacted for comment.

No warning for backpackers as gateway to sacred mountain is engulfed within seconds

The flood took everything, say survivors as mud-filled waves devastate tourist hotspot in peak season

By **Memphis Barker, Samaan Lateef** *and* **Alexandra Snow**

THE tourists glanced over their shoulders then began to run for their lives as a wall of water surged towards them down the narrow, tree-lined valley. Seconds before 8.45am, the flood waves hit. In CCTV footage taken at Gyirong Port, a mud-filled wave rises more than 70 feet into the air as it engulfs the multi-storey facility spanning the border between Nepal and Tibet. Then it smashed back to the ground, picked up fleeing travellers and barrelled onwards on a devastating journey that has left at least 160 people dead and hundreds missing.

There was no advanced warning. Although it remains too early to confirm the trigger of the worst natural disaster to hit Nepal since the 2015 earthquake that killed 9,000 people, analysis of satellite imagery suggests an avalanche of ice plunged into the Bhotekoshi River – falling for over half a mile before it drove into the river bed.

At the same time, 12 British tourists had just crossed through Gyirong Port on a tour led by Alpine Eco Trek, a local service that arranges regular, 10-day trips from the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu to the Tibetan mountain of Kailash, revered by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains. "Both guides went offline at 8.42am," said the manager of the tour company, Ram Kumar Adkhikari. "The whole area was swept away by the flood. Even the Tibet immigration office," he told *The Telegraph*.

The fate of the 12, whose number included "young girls", remains unknown. They were among 466 foreign tourists unaccounted for on Wednesday evening, according to Nepalese authorities. In total, 33 British citizens and 54 Americans could not be reached as night fell over scenes of massive devastation.

Bhupesh Bector told *The Times* he has flown to Nepal in search of his wife Leena Bector, 53, after discovering her location on the Find My Friends app had not changed for more than seven hours, remaining on the Pasang Lhamu Highway.

FishTail Tours, the agency managing her itinerary in Nepal, has not heard from the sherpa in charge of leading her group. He said: "All I know is she was one hour away from the Friendship Bridge and the tour operator said its last contact with the sherpa Gelu Dai was at about 8.16am local time." A 61-year-old British woman and her sister, 60, were on the same route as the Alpine group when the mudslide struck. Leaf Holidays, the trip organiser, said it had lost contact with all 54 of its pilgrims and staff. "My brother is the guide. He is missing. I rented a helicopter myself and went out for an hour looking for them," Gopal Thapa, a company trek-leaders, said.

Survivors spoke of family members washed away in front of their eyes. Kaplana Malla saw her father, mother, sister and sister's children caught up in the floodwater.

"They could not escape, there was no chance at all," she told the BBC. "This flood took everything but my son and I climbed the rooftop of a house and survived somehow." As the waves churned south, they tore through 19 bridges and destroyed more than 24 miles of road, according to the prime minister's office. Bodies were deposited in towns all along the river, some as far as 180 miles away. Several settlements were totally obliterated.

Nepal's army launched rescue missions, winching more than 100 people to safety via helicopter. Across the border, the Chinese air force launched drones above the town of Gyirong to search for survivors. According to state media, at least three people were killed by the torrents that swamped the border post, with a further 265 missing.

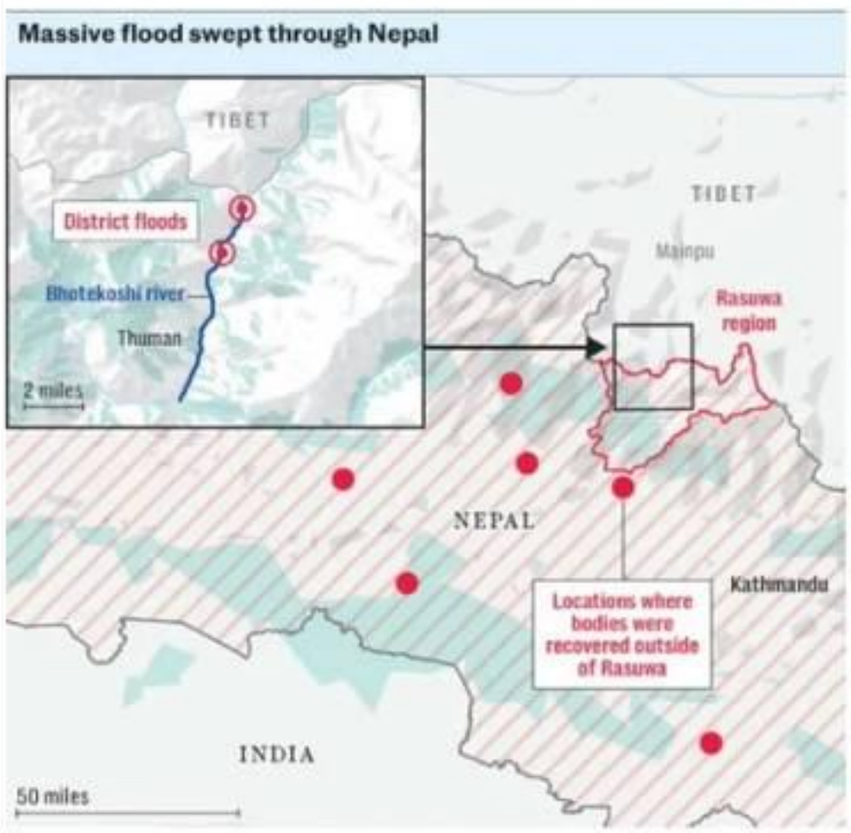
Every pilgrim or tourist seeking to enter Tibet would have had to pass through Gyirong, as that is the only crossing currently open to foreign travellers. About 20,000 pilgrims visit the Kailash each year – walking around the sacred mountain's perimeter rather than attempting to scale the 6,638 metre peak. Summer marks the busy season.

One local helicopter rescue service told *The Telegraph* its office had been washed away, with the staff member in charge among the missing. "Weather conditions have been challenging and are affecting access and helicopter operations in some areas," said Bidhan Thapaliya.

Balen Shah, the prime minister of Nepal, appealed for unity as he promised that rescue efforts would continue around the clock. "Please be patient," he said. "The government takes full responsibility for your rescue, treatment, food and shelter. In times of such a disaster, we all need to stand together."

More than 1,600 soldiers have been deployed and tents sent to the worst-hit areas. Only this morning will the full extent of the carnage start to become clear. By then, for some of those caught up in the flood, it may already be too late.

Top, CCTV shows the wall of water strike Gyirong Port. Left, a boy looks at the devastation along the Trishuli River in Nepal's Nuwakot district. Below, backpackers who were forced to flee the mountain



Middlesbrough faces 'carnage' after girl's death

Police investigate whether fire that killed girl and her aunt could be linked to car crash and warring gangs

By **Tim Sigsworth**
and **Daisy Graham-Brown**

MIDDLESBROUGH'S residents fear "carnage" in the town if feuds between gangs escalate after a house fire killed a seven-year-old girl.

Two men, aged 23 and 31, have been arrested on suspicion of murder after Valentina Foster, seven, and her aunt Natalie McDonald, 34, died in yesterday's blaze. Police believe the fire may be a gang-related response to a wrong-way car crash on the A66 that killed two police officers and five other people on Saturday.

On Tuesday, it emerged that the A66 crash happened less than an hour after an alleged gang dispute led to an SUV ramming a house belonging to the father of one of the youths who died in the crash. Middlesbrough has the highest crime rate in England, excluding central London, and rival criminal groups have spread fear among locals, who no longer feel they can report crimes for fear of retribution.

Andy Preston, the former mayor of Middlesbrough, told *The Telegraph* the town was "on its knees" and that he feared retaliatory violence would "escalate" in response to the house fire.

"From this awful point, things could escalate or peter out," he said. "Escalation will be carnage and further wound the communities that are already on their knees.

> 'Middlesbrough is England's crime capital. It didn't happen overnight. We've allowed it to happen'

"The shock of Saturday's crash has today become anger. Almost everyone is angry about what's happening to our town and our country. Criminals and layabouts seem to do that they want, often without consequences.

"Decent people see death threats, guns shot at front doors and cars rammed into houses. The escalation of menace and intimidation here is huge. Criminals dominate some streets and communities. It's horrendous.

"Middlesbrough is England's crime capital. That didn't happen overnight. We've allowed bad behaviour to go unpunished, worklessness to become normal and criminals to think they can do pretty much what they like."

Lisa Kirton, Natalie's mother, paid tribute to her daughter, describing her as a "beautiful soul who would have done anything for anybody."

She said Valentina, also known as Tina, had been spending the summer holidays with the family.

"She was a cute little kid," Kirton told the BBC. "I can't believe it, seven years old - it's just a disgrace."

She also said Natalie's 15-year-old daughter and a friend had managed to escape the blaze through an upstairs window.

The friend, she said, had "kicked out a window" and "had saved their lives".

Another woman was taken to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne in a critical condition. Three others were being treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Local residents described how people attempted to rescue the occupants of the house and that one had leaped to safety from an upstairs window.

Ellie, who did not wish to give her surname, said: "I ran down the road screaming. I have lost my voice now. The entire house was scorching. I couldn't get near the front of the house it was that hot."

Victims Valentina Foster, seven, and Natalie McDonald, 34. Left, the devastated house in Middlesbrough

She described holding the hand of a woman who had jumped from an upstairs window, staying with her until paramedics arrived.

Ellie added: "She was crying. I'm just praying for the family."

A neighbour, who asked not to be named, said: "My daughter heard shouting and screaming this morning. The dogs were barking."

Detectives are investigating whether organised crime groups were responsible for the house fire, and also if it was connected to the head-on crash that killed Pc Matthew Blades, 37, and Pc Tom Clough, 38.

Makai Saddington, 18, Theo Rae, 17, Cole Worthy, 17, Jakub Matusiak, 23, and Michael Cahill, 23, were in a Volkswagen Passat travelling in the wrong direction on the A66 when it hit a marked police car, killing all seven people.

A house where Worthy's father lived in the Middlebrough suburb of Acklam was rammed by a Volvo SUV in an alleged gang feud shortly before the youths were seen driving through the town at high speed in the Passat.

On Monday, *The Telegraph* revealed that four of the five joyriders had 37 previous convictions and police have previously said they may had links to "serious and organised criminal activity".

Cleveland Police have made 17 arrests in connection with the fatal crash, with offences ranging from suspicion of participating in an organised crime group to possession of firearms or drugs.

Inquests for those in the crash are due to open in Middlesbrough today.

Asylum seekers pushed to top of queue for social housing

By **Jacob Freedland**
SCOTTISH REPORTER

ASYLUM seekers are being prioritised for council housing by a Labour-run council, *The Telegraph* can reveal.

Homeless people in Edinburgh who have effectively had their asylum claim approved have been moved to the top of the waiting list for social housing since a new policy in April last year.

That has meant that ordinary applicants – those who are not considered disabled, homeless, or at risk of violence – have had requests put on hold so that the council can use its housing stock to accommodate the city's growing homeless population.

Meanwhile, applications for newly arrived asylum seekers who have been granted permission to remain in Britain but find themselves without a home have continued to be processed.

Councillors voted on Tuesday to reinstate the old system from October and resume giving social housing to the more than 31,000 people frozen on the waiting list. Scotland has a policy to house all homeless people, and many asylum seekers fit into that category once their claim is approved by the Home Office.

Edinburgh's homeless population surged by 75 per cent in five years after it became one of the most liberal places for housing migrants in Britain.

An Edinburgh council report shows that between 2023 and 2026, the proportion of the city's temporary accommodation used to house homeless asylum seekers surged from around 1 per cent to more than 16 per cent.

The proportion used for Scottish households plateaued during this time.

Tim Eagle MSP, Scottish Conservative housing spokesman, said: "Local people should not be pushed to the back of the queue because SNP ministers have allowed Scotland's housing system to become overwhelmed."

Edinburgh's homelessness crisis was largely driven by a rise in applications from refugees granted asylum in the UK, internal council documents show.

The SNP's 2012 law change compelling councils to house all unintentionally homeless people, including single men, has been blamed.

Nicola Sturgeon's 2022 rule change to scrap the need for a "local connection" to receive a council home also contributed to the issue.

These changes encouraged former asylum seekers – those given permission to stay in Britain – to travel to Scotland and apply for a council house.

Thomas Kerr MSP, Reform UK's Scottish deputy leader, said: "It's one thing to promote Scotland as a welcoming country, but it's something else entirely to prioritise strangers and outsiders over the most vulnerable in society. It's here in black and white... Instead of ensuring the welfare of fellow Scots, the uni-party is prioritising illegal migrants."

A council spokesman admitted there were "challenges" from different groups but added: "We continue to see progress against our emergency plan and remain focused on improving housing provision across the city."

Rogue care homes were cleared to bring in 100,000 migrants

By **Charles Hymas**
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

ROGUE care firms were granted the right to bring 100,000 migrants into the UK, *The Telegraph* can reveal.

Care firms struck off or suspended for underpaying workers or securing visas for non-existent jobs were awarded at least 99,686 certificates to sponsor migrants to come to the UK, an analysis of official records showed.

The data reveal for the first time how widely the care visa system, introduced by the last Conservative government, was abused by companies bringing thousands of migrants to the UK.

It comes as Shabana Mahmood, the Home Secretary, faces backbench pressure to abandon her plan to force foreign care workers to wait up to 15 years to claim indefinite leave to remain, up from five years at present, as they are classed as "low-skilled or medium-skilled jobs".

Andy Burnham is reportedly considering exempting care workers from the visa crackdown as part of his pledge to overhaul social care, despite Home Office estimates that the net lifetime fiscal cost of allowing them to settle in the UK would be up to £10bn.

Robert Bates, the research director at the Centre for Migration Control, which conducted the analysis, said: "The care visa has been a disaster for Britain, with hundreds of thousands of low-skilled individuals and their dependents using the route to enter Britain.

> 'This research reveals the rampant fraud and improper practices that underpinned Boriswave'

"This research reveals the rampant fraud and improper practices that underpinned the Boriswave."

Between 2021 and 2024, up to 4.2 million people entered the UK or were granted long-term visas during the post-Brexit migration surge often referred to as the "Boriswave". Labour closed care-worker visas to new applications in July last year after nearly 650,000 migrants used the route, but Mr Bates said ministers should go further by barring foreign care staff from extending their visas.

It came as the Home Office announced moves to strip hundreds of care providers of their sponsor licences in a "clampdown" on "abuse and exploitation".

Licences can be revoked for a range of breaches including hiring workers illegally, sponsoring visas for bogus roles, underpaying staff or charging banned recruitment fees.

Home Office data show that between the start of 2022 and the end of 2025, 1,443 suspension notices were issued to businesses which had awarded at least one certificate of sponsorship (COS) to a care worker or senior care worker.

Some 1,049 care businesses had their licences revoked in the same period.

The Home Office has been approached for comment.

Libyan who stood trial over 1988 Lockerbie bombing dies aged 70

By **Telegraph Reporter**

A LIBYAN man acquitted after standing trial over the Lockerbie bombing has died.

Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah was cleared of involvement in the bombing, which killed 270 people when Pan Am Flight 103 exploded above Lockerbie on Dec 21 1988.

His co-accused Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, who died in 2012, was the only man convicted in relation to the incident after being found guilty of 270 counts of murder by three Scottish judges in the Hague in 2001.

Fhimah's death was announced "with deep sorrow and profound grief" in a Facebook post by Libyan Airlines, for which he previously worked.

It said: "We extend our heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy to his noble family and all his colleagues and loved ones."

Fhimah, 70, worked for Libyan Airlines in Malta, where he was the station manager for several years, and left just before the bombing.

Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, left, was cleared of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, above

Megrahi was sent to prison in Scotland but was granted compassionate release in 2009 after being diagnosed with terminal cancer. Another man charged over the explosion is due to stand trial in the US. Jury selection had been set to begin this week in the trial of Abu Agila Masud, who is charged with making the bomb that destroyed the plane. He has denied the charges.

The trial was postponed for a third time earlier this week. Lawyers acting for Mr Masud said "newly-discovered evidence" had emerged on Friday.

All 259 passengers and crew members died in the bombing, as well as 11 people in Lockerbie when the plane fell on their homes.

Stephanie Bernstein, the vice-president of the Victims of Pan Am Flight 103 group who lost her husband Michael Bernstein in the bombing, said families and prosecutors were astonished by the delay.

"Many of our family members are elderly. A number of them were getting ready to travel to Washington for the trial," she said. "I hope and I pray that they will still be able to do that when a new trial date is set."

News

Ex-Sun editor quits as No10 comms chief

Dinsmore leaves key role following pressure from Hillsborough bereaved over his links to the tabloid

By **Daniel Martin**
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

DAVID DINSMORE, a former editor of *The Sun*, is standing down as the Government's communications chief after a year in the job.

Mr Dinsmore was brought in by ex-PM Sir Keir Starmer to overhaul communications across Whitehall.

In a statement yesterday, the Cabinet Office said he would leave the role as permanent secretary for communications on September 30 "by mutual agreement" following discussions with First Secretary of State Louise Haigh.

Mr Dinsmore edited *The Sun* between 2013 and 2015 and went on to become the chief operating officer of its parent company, News UK. His appointment by Sir Keir last July was controversial because of *The Sun*'s reporting of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster.

Ninety seven people were unlawfully killed during the FA Cup semi final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest at Hillsborough in Sheffield.

The following day *The Sun* ran a front page story which blamed fans for the tragedy and printed lies about their conduct, prompting a city-wide boycott of the paper. *The Sun* eventually apologised for its coverage in 2004.

At the time of his appointment, Liverpool city region mayor Steve Rotheram said Mr Dinsmore "shouldn't be anywhere near a senior government role" an described his appointment as "insensitive". Bereaved families also wrote to Sir Keir insisting Mr Dinsmore was "unsuitable for public appointment" due to his association with *The Sun*.

Andy Burnham is a long-term campaigner for justice for the Hillsborough families. In 2009, when Mr Burnham was culture secretary, he attended an event at Anfield marking the 20th anniversary of the tragedy, a moment he described as a turning point in his political life. He campaigned for the public inquiry that, in 2012, exposed the institutional cover-up over Hillsborough.

Returning to the Commons after his election as Makerfield MP in July, Mr Burnham used his first speech to welcome the Public Office Accountability Bill, known as the Hillsborough Law, which imposes a duty of candour.

Mr Dinsmore said it had been "an enormous privilege to serve at the heart of Government", and his team had "fundamentally reshaped the way Government approaches communications".

He added: "Government communications is now moving from strategic design into implementation and I leave with great confidence in the outstanding civil servants who will take that work forward."

Cabinet Secretary Dame Antonia Romeo said Mr Dinsmore had done "a brilliant job establishing the strategy, structures and capabilities required for lasting change in Government communications". He is the fifth communications chief appointed by Sir Keir to quit.

The former prime minister faced repeated criticism while in No 10 that Labour lacked a clear narrative.

Lord Doyle, who came into No10 with Sir Keir as his communications director after Labour's general election victory quit in March 2025, just nine months into the post. The role was then split, with James Lyons, a former lobby journalist, as director of communications (strategy) and Steph Driver, being promoted to director of communications (delivery).

However in September 2025 Mr Lyons quit with allies saying he never intended to be in for the "long haul". Ms Driver also stood down.

Tim Allan, a former Tony Blair adviser, was then appointed by Sir Keir as political director of communications while Mr Dinsmore was appointed to shake up comms in the civil service.

Mr Allan quit just over five months later, as Sir Keir faced growing calls from his own party to stand down.

Anderson: Wokest thing I've done? I had vegetarian thoughts once

By **Dominic Penna**
SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HE IS one of Britain's most "anti-woke" politicians, who swears by having a bacon sandwich for his breakfast every Thursday.

So it will come as something of a surprise that Lee Anderson has admitted to having "vegetarian thoughts".

The Reform UK chairman made the unlikely remarks when asked by the *Sun* newspaper about the "wokest thing" he had ever done.

Mr Anderson said: "The wokest thing? Ah... dear, dear, dear, I don't know. I once had a vegetarian thought about becoming a vegetarian. That was quickly dismissed when I was full of bacon sandwich. So yeah, I've had vegetarian thoughts."

Lee Anderson says he has occasional urges to become vegetarian... but they disappear when he eats a bacon sandwich

Mr Anderson was then asked whether his herbivorous hunches were recent. He replied: "I get them, they're like twinges. They come now and again, and then I think 'No, that's nonsense.'"

The MP for Ashfield has criticised Labour MPs for being "sandal-wearing mad vegetarians".

Regularly wishing his 326,000 followers on X a "happy bacon Thursday", Mr Anderson said in May that he preferred brown sauce to ketchup on his bacon sandwiches.

He said in July: "I see some of the radical-Left are now screaming racist at my bacon sandwich posts. We're dealing with sick minds."

In 2023, Mr Anderson joked that his son Harry had been "indoctrinated" after becoming a vegetarian in his first few months at university in Sheffield.

He said: "He held my hand, looked into my eyes, and says: 'Dad, I've got to tell you something about myself.'

"And I thought, Harry, just get on with it. He says: 'Dad, I'm a vegetarian.' Shocking. Absolutely shocking."

Here comes the cavalry Cutting-edge and traditional crime-fighting methods come face to face in the Mall in central London. The Met announced yesterday it had boosted its fleet of electric motorcycles from five to 25 to tackle phone-snatchers. The machines can cut through traffic, narrow streets and zip up stairs.

Burnham's rough sleeping plan will never work, says charity boss

By **Amy Gibbons**
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ANDY BURNHAM'S plan to end rough sleeping will never work because of a chronic shortage of housing, the leader of a homelessness charity has warned.

The Prime Minister pledged to eliminate rough sleeping in England on his first day in No10.

But Andy Preston, the chairman of the CEO Sleepout charity, has dismissed the strategy as unworkable without a big boost to Britain's housing stock.

Mr Burham said this week that he wants to build 70,000 social and affordable homes over the next 10 years.

However, Mr Preston called the target "disappointing", noting it amounted to just 7,000 homes per year. "The housing shortage is measured in millions," he said. "This isn't the house-building revolution he's selling us."

Mr Burnham pledged "to end rough sleeping", insisting the Government could fix the problem "if it chooses to".

He later committed to "offer everyone a route off the streets this Christmas", inspired by a Covid-era scheme. However, he did not specify how long councils will take people in for.

The Government said that the plan, backed by £442m, would also help deliver more than 1,000 "settled homes" over the next three years to keep people off the streets.

But Mr Preston – a Tory donor whose charity has raised millions to fight homelessness – said that the proposals fell far short of what was needed. He pointed to Finland's "Housing First" model, which Mr Burnham has cited as an inspiration. Finnish homeless rates halved in a decade but increased again in 2024 and jumped 20 per cent in 2025.

"A mayor or PM can spend fortunes supporting troubled people, but it will amount to nothing if there aren't enough homes," Mr Preston said.

"Housing First cannot fix Finland's or our own shortage of homes. Should the troubled rough sleeper get a home and costly support ahead of a person who's in work, or could be? Every scarce property allocated to one person is a property somebody else can't have."

Mr Preston said Mr Burnham "should understand this" from his time as mayor of Greater Manchester, where he promised to end rough sleeping by 2020 by drawing on the Finnish model.

When Mr Burnham announced his flagship A Bed Every Night scheme in 2017, there were 268 people sleeping rough in the region. That fell to 89 by 2021, but had risen to 197 by 2025. Mr Preston suggested the scheme may have pushed people on to the streets by swapping out one rough sleeper for another.

A government spokesman said: "The Prime Minister has set out a bold ambition to end rough sleeping, and last week he set out how we start delivering it, with a national drive to get everyone in for Christmas, offering every person sleeping rough in England a route off the streets this winter, backed by £442m of funding."

"That is the immediate step. Behind it sits over £4bn to fund the support services that keep people off the streets for good, and £39bn for the biggest boost to social and affordable housing in a generation."

Drunk BA passenger on stag do arrested after refusing to sit down

By **Telegraph Reporter**

A DRUNK passenger was detained by armed police on a British Airways flight to Las Vegas for a stag do after refusing to sit down for take-off, a court heard.

Emmet Moynihan, 31, insisted on using the toilet while the plane was grounded at Heathrow airport because of delays on Aug 6.

Footage showed the plumber arguing with crew members and a female steward repeatedly asking him to settle down and return to his seat.

Abigail Day, the prosecutor, told Uxbridge magistrates' court: "He was told to return to his seat, he responded: 'This is a f---ing joke.'

"A passenger had also noticed he smelled of alcohol, and he was clearly drunk.

"Passengers began filming him with their phones and he was heard shouting: 'Stop f---ing filming me.' I believe the co-pilot had to speak to him at one point."

Moynihan was given repeated warnings, but he continued to shout abuse at staff and passengers. The BA275 flight, with up to 331 passengers, was eventually forced to abandon its take-off and head back to the terminal, where armed officers boarded the flight and led Moynihan away.

Moynihan, from Cork, Ireland, appeared in the dock yesterday wearing a grey hoodie and dark jeans. He admitted being drunk on an aircraft and disobeying the captain's orders.

Emmet Moynihan, a plumber, was on his way to Las Vegas for a stag do when he began arguing with flight crew members

Paul Turnbull, defending, said: "The defendant was of good character... This defendant did a full comment interview, admitted the matter in the interview, and at the end of the interview he did say he was ashamed.

"He doesn't want to waste any court time, doesn't want to add to the backlog, and has immediately pleaded guilty."

He said Moynihan was part of a group headed to Las Vegas for a stag do and had started drinking when they were still in Cork.

Mrs Joseph JP, a magistrate, said: "This case has seriously given us a lot to think about, it is a very, very serious offence.

"There is only one reason we were not going to send it to the Crown Court, and it is because your plane was still on the ground, and therefore passengers could have been evacuated.

"However, had they been in the air, it would have been a completely different matter."

Moynihan was ordered to pay a £2,224 fine, an £890 surcharge and £85 in costs.

A spokesman for BA said: "Disruptive or abusive behaviour is never tolerated on board and the safety of our customers and crew is our highest priority. When these incidents occur, the appropriate action will always be taken."

Arday was found unresponsive by his family, inquest hears

By **Telegraph Reporter**

JASON ARDAY was found unresponsive by family members at his home in south London, an inquest has heard.

The late Cambridge academic was discovered at his home in Battersea on the afternoon of Aug 14, the hearing at London Inner South Coroner's Court was told.

The inquest, which was opened and adjourned yesterday, heard that, despite efforts to resuscitate him, he had been pronounced dead and the Metropolitan Police had said the scene was not suspicious.

Arday, 41, resigned from his post as professor of sociology of education at the University of Cambridge earlier this month after he faced intense scrutiny over accusations of plagiarism.

Dr Julian Morris, the senior coroner, said: "The initial investigations, whilst I await the various reports, have given me reason to suspect that Professor Arday died an unnatural death 12 days ago. It therefore follows that I must open an investigation. I will be setting out further directions for the coroner officer." Dr Morris added: "Can I please say this to the press? Please be mindful of your reporting, mindful both in terms of Professor Arday's immediate and wider family, but also in terms of the general public.

"High-profile deaths can lead to vulnerable individuals feeling more exposed."

'Response to this appeal reflects the number of people whose lives were touched by beloved Jason'

Members of Arday's family were watching proceedings via videolink, the inquest heard.

On Tuesday, his relatives said they were "deeply moved" after a fundraiser launched in his memory reached £224,474 with over 7,900 donations.

Sir Patrick Vernon, who played a leading role in the successful campaign to establish a national Windrush Day, set up the GoFundMe page to help support the late academic's family. In a message on the page on Tuesday, Mr Arday's family said: "We are deeply moved by the extraordinary support we have received.

"The response to this appeal reflects the number of people whose lives were touched by our beloved Jason and the affection, respect and admiration in which he was held."

The family added: "We are still grieving the loss of our beloved son, partner, father, brother, uncle and friend. We hope you will understand our need for time and space as we come to terms with this devastating loss and consider how best to move forward."

The fundraiser was closed to donations on Monday at the family's request after passing £224,000.

Sir Patrick was one of several public figures to sign an open letter supporting the academic. Arday's memoir, *Great And Unfortunate Things*, will be published as planned in the UK today. His family said: "It is only right that we honour his wishes."

Meta's mega payout

Tech giant agrees to settle landmark court case

$5.3bn
The amount of the settlement that will only be paid out if YouTube and TikTok each agree to pay the same amount

10 years
The period over which Meta will pay the settlement payments annually

$201bn
Meta's total revenue last year

$1.4tn
The amount Meta's own legal team suggested it could be fined if it lost the case

$200bn
The amount state prosecutors said they were seeking from the company

47
The number of states Meta has agreed to pay $16.68bn to, as well as DC and three US territories

$60bn
Meta's net income last year

Protesters with banners naming youngsters whose deaths were allegedly related to social media

Whistleblower who blew apart tech's addictive business model

Meta was targeting under-13s for its next big app, until one disillusioned worker lifted the lid on the firm's multiple failings

By **James Titcomb**

META'S $18bn settlement over claims the social media giant sought to keep children addicted to its apps could be seen as a let-off for it, at least financially.

The agreement is less than a 10th of the $200bn (£170bn) state prosecutors said they were seeking, while Meta's own legal team had suggested it could face penalties of $1.4trn if it lost

But the changes that Meta has agreed to make to its Facebook and Instagram apps as part of the settlement could reshape the way that teenagers use social media.

Under the deal announced yesterday, Meta will block children from using its apps at nighttime and in school hours, will limit screen time to two hours a day, and enforce stricter age controls to block under-13s from using them. Like counts will be hidden, as will "extreme makeup" image filters.

It is for this reason that the years-long bipartisan legal battle against the company has been referred to as social media's "big tobacco" moment.

A flurry of state lawsuits against the tobacco industry in the 1990s forced companies to stop sponsoring sports teams and advertising on public transport, banned adverts that targeted the youth, and prevented cigarette companies from putting cartoons on their packets.

The landmark settlement was credited with a huge decline in teenage smoking rates, and campaigners will now hope the same happens to habitual social media use.

It ends a five-year fight between 42 US states and Meta, which just hours earlier had continued to fight claims that it had purposefully addicted children to its apps.

On Tuesday, speaking on the witness stand in a California courtroom, Instagram boss Adam Mosseri had defended its approach to child safety, saying it had improved protections for children and given parents more options to manage accounts.

State scrutiny of the company started in 2021, when it emerged that Meta – then known as Facebook – was planning to release a version of Instagram for under-13s.

Rob Bonta, California's powerful attorney general, urged Mark Zuckerberg, Meta's all-powerful boss, to cancel the app, saying it could attract child predators and lead to mental health problems.

Meta, nonetheless, pressed ahead until a devastating leak doomed the project. Frances Haugen, a disillusioned former engineer, disclosed tens of thousands of internal research documents, outlining in painstaking detail what the company knew about the impact of its apps on teens.

ALEX BRANDON/AP PHOTO

Ex-Facebook employee and whistleblower Frances Haugen. Below, Zuckerberg

Haugen purported to show that Facebook was well aware that its products could lead to mental health problems among children, but ignored these concerns in search of profits.

The revelations ultimately doomed plans for an Instagram Kids, but only emboldened California's Bonta, who along with other US attorney generals launched an investigation into the company. Two years later, after unsuccessful negotiations with the company, 42 states sued Meta, claiming it had violated laws protecting children online.

Meta was defiant, and confident. For decades, US internet laws have given social media companies blanket protections from what happens on their sites. But in recent months the tide has turned.

As social networks have developed, they have become stuffed with recommendation algorithms, infinite scroll features, and popularity metrics, which make it harder to argue that they are simply blank canvasses.

In March, a jury in a landmark trial brought by a young woman who said she had become addicted to Instagram as a child, found that Meta was liable for $6m in damages. Earlier this month, a separate lawsuit brought by New Mexico resulted in Meta being told to pay $942m in fines for failing to warn people about potential dangers to children.

While Meta has been less regulated in its home market, countries from the UK to Australia are cracking down on children using apps such as Instagram. Labour has promised to follow an Australian ban on under-16s using social media, in addition to strict online safety laws already enforced.

The US states' case against Meta concerned allegations of legal failures by Meta, rather than harm caused to victims, but the courtroom was surrounded by protesters who say the company's neglect led to the death of family members. Some held up a banner with dozens of names of children who they said died as a result of social media harms.

The case settled this week had brought few new revelations, and

> Tens of thousands of research documents outlined in painstaking detail what it knew on the impact of its apps on teenagers

Mosseri, a long trusted Zuckerberg lieutenant, had not obviously slipped up when giving evidence on Tuesday. So, there was nothing obvious that triggered a scramble to settle. Legal papers said negotiations over a deal had gone on for more than two years.

Meta had been dealt a series of setbacks in pre-trial rulings, possibly increasing the likelihood of a massive payout if the trial had gone south. This may have increased pressure on the Meta side to reach a deal.

Zuckerberg was also scheduled to give evidence, something that the deal will now prevent. Instead, he will be allowed to resume his obsessive focus on catching up in the AI race.

Meta welcomed the deal as providing a "framework" for the whole industry, and crucially, much of its $18bn penalty will be paid only if YouTube and TikTok agree to the same restrictions on children's screen time. TikTok is facing a similar lawsuit from US states, while YouTube is likely to be put under pressure to enact the same controls. Meta tried to put a positive spin on the news, saying others should "follow Meta's lead". If they do, social media might start to look more like tobacco: still a part of life, but more heavily regulated and restricted, and widely understood to be bad for you.

Downfall of Sturgeon's husband to be portrayed in TV drama

By **Simon Johnson**
SCOTTISH POLITICAL EDITOR

THE "epic tale" of Nicola Sturgeon and her husband's "Shakespearean" downfall is to be portrayed in a TV drama.

Channel 5 announced that it had commissioned the 90-minute programme depicting how Peter Murrell embezzled £400,000 from the SNP while married to Ms Sturgeon.

The drama, with the working title *To Nicola, Love Peter*, will draw on evidence gathered by Police Scotland, prosecutors and interviews with "key protagonists".

The broadcaster said it would depict how Murrell, 61, "falsified receipts, gaslit junior staff and used secret codes" to steal the money.

He used the funds to purchase a range of luxury household goods, including high-end coffee machines, luxury watches, a robotic lawnmower, a pressure washer and a £124,550 motorhome as well as spending £2,618.16 on two luxury salt and pepper grinders. Channel 5 said the show, to be broadcast next year, would depict how Ms Sturgeon's political reputation was "left in tatters" after police raided the marital home in April 2023, shortly after she stepped down as Scottish First Minister.

It said Murrell's actions had "contributed to the downfall of one of the biggest political figures of a generation" and damaged the cause of Scottish independence. He was jailed for five years and three months in May this year. The actors who will play Ms Sturgeon, 56, Murrell and the other characters are to be announced in the coming week.

The show was commissioned after more than four million viewers watched the broadcaster's factual drama, *Power: The Downfall of Huw Edwards*, which starred Martin Clunes as the disgraced BBC News anchor.

Wonderwood Studios, the company behind the Edwards drama, is also producing the Sturgeon-Murrell programme. Ben Frow, Channel 5's chief content officer, said: "This is an epic tale of Shakespearean proportions. An extraordinary tale of power, envy, deception and greed.

"It's both a high-stakes political melodrama and bizarre domestic drama that has dominated headlines and gossip columns."

Rachael Hamilton, the Scottish Tory deputy leader, said: "However bizarre it may be that this extraordinary SNP scandal is now being turned into a TV drama, the real story still hasn't been told. Scotland needs a full independent inquiry to establish how Peter Murrell was able to steal £400,000 over 12 years – and whether Nicola Sturgeon, John Swinney and other senior SNP figures really knew nothing about what was happening, right under their noses."

Ms Sturgeon has vehemently denied that she knew her husband, from whom she has since separated, was using SNP funds for luxury purchases.

Sweeney's wing-walking date over the Kentish countryside

By **Tom McArdle**

EYEBROWS were raised earlier this year when a Hollywood director suggested Sydney Sweeney should be the next James Bond.

But the American actress may already have her audition tape for the 007 role after taking to the skies in a daredevil outing Daniel Craig would be proud of.

Sweeney, 28, posted a video on social media of her wing-walking on a plane over the Kent countryside last week.

The *Euphoria* actress and her partner Scooter Braun stood on separate biplanes, which took off near the village of Headcorn last week.

She told fellow actor Tom Cruise to "watch out" as she shared a video of her performing aerial acrobatics reminiscent of the *Mission Impossible* star.

Sweeney can be seen strapped upright, holding on as the plane performs barrel rolls and a loop-the-loop.

Braun posted similar photos and videos on his own Instagram, alongside the caption "date night". The ex-talent manager discovered Justin Bieber in 2008 and worked with Ariana Grande, Demi Lovato and Kanye West. He retired from music management in 2024.

The couple are said to have arrived by helicopter before taking their Wing Walk Company flights.

Michael Pickin, director and pilot at the firm's Headcorn base, said Sweeney was "a bit apprehensive" before admitting to be an "adrenalin junkie at heart".

He said: "Adrenalin experiences like skydiving have been around for a long time and everybody knows about them, but wing-walking is relatively new. Hopefully, this will help show more people what we do."

The firm said it had been "inundated" with inquiries since Sweeney shared the clip. The Instagram account for Cruise's *Top Gun* films approved of the stunt, saying: "Feel the need for speed."

Asked whether she would like to play a Bond girl, Sweeney said she would have "more fun as James Bond".

Sydney Sweeney proves she has the stuff to be the next James Bond flying over Kent

Irn-Bru-loving jokers play tricks on Batman film crew

By **Jacob Freedland**

MISCHIEF-makers in Glasgow are trying to sneak cans of Scotland's favourite drink into scenes of a new Batman movie being filmed in the city.

Irn-Bru fans have reportedly been leaving cans of the fizzy drink on bins and hot dog stands in areas where the film is being shot. Bothwell Street, which is minutes from the city's main railway station, has been transformed into Gotham City for *The Batman: Part II*, featuring Robert Pattinson. Members of the public can access the street during the day, allowing fans to take pictures with the replica police cars for the film – and carry out their pranks.

The stunts were first revealed on social media after a user claimed the film's security guards were on the lookout for Irn-Bru cans left on set in the hope they would feature in the film, which is due for release in 2028.

The commentator, who is reportedly a video editor, wrote: "Went to The Batman 2 set in Glasgow and one of the security people said that they have to search the set for Irn-Bru cans every night because the locals are trying to sneak one into the film and they keep popping up in the bins and hot dog stands."

Warner Bros. is using Glasgow to film a police chase involving the Batmobile. Pattinson, 40, who takes the part of Bruce Wayne, said: "When you think of Gotham you think of a wonderfully Gothic city – and that's why Glasgow works so well.

"The architecture in Glasgow is incredible – it has that real 19th century feel to it hence why it makes for a brilliant Gotham."

Glasgow is a popular location for Hollywood productions. Last year, the city was used to film scenes for *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*, which is now showing in UK cinemas.

The new Batman film, which also features Colin Farrell and Scarlett Johansson is due to be released in 2028.

News

Weight-loss drugs pay for themselves within a year

By **Laura Donnelly**

WEIGHT-LOSS jabs could save health services more money than they cost within a year, research suggests.

A study of almost 16,000 adults found savings from fewer hospital admissions and emergency visits could exceed the cost of the injections.

More than two million people in the UK are being prescribed weight-loss jabs privately, with costs starting at around £130 per month.

But under the NHS rollout only around 220,000 are due to get Mounjaro for weight loss over three years.

The US research examined 15,843 Americans aged over 55 who were overweight or obese and started tirzepatide.

The drug, which suppresses appetite and promotes fullness, is sold as Mounjaro in Britain and Zepbound in the US.

Each patient was matched with a person not taking this type of medicine.

After a year, healthcare costs were up to 38 per cent lower among patients taking the treatment. The savings reached $607 (£450) per patient each month, compared with the $195 monthly cost of providing Zepbound.

The researchers said the difference was driven partly by lower use of expensive hospital and emergency care.

Ilya Yuffa, a boss at Eli Lilly, which makes Mounjaro, said: "This analysis shows treatment costs can be lowered, and in some cases more than covered, by savings elsewhere in care."

But the study, in the journal *Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism*, could not prove the drug caused the reduction.

Tache-tastic The RSPCA hopes an abandoned kitten's Super Mario-like facial markings will win him a new home. Mario was found last month in Tipton, West Mids, at five weeks old. The charity's Chloe Sewell said he was "adorable".

Shingles jab can save older people from heart attacks

By **Sarah Knapton** SCIENCE EDITOR

THE shingles vaccine also protects against heart disease, heart failure and stroke, scientists believe, and could save thousands of lives each year.

In 2017, the US switched from the old Zostavax vaccine to the updated Shingrix, and Oxford University used the changeover as a natural experiment to see whether the new jab offered any extra benefits.

In the seven-year follow-up, those who had Shingrix lived 9 per cent longer without developing a cardiovascular disease, 12 per cent longer without heart failure and had 12 per cent more time stroke-free.

The Shingrix jab is offered to everyone aged 70 to 79 in Britain as well as those with a weakened immune system, and is being gradually rolled out to people aged 65 and older. Researchers believe if everyone eligible had the jab, it could prevent thousands of deaths.

Dr Maxime Taquet, associate professor in the department of psychiatry at Oxford, who led the study, said that if the findings were confirmed, the vaccine could be "one of the most impactful interventions we could offer to protect both the brain and the heart in later life".

The experts are unsure what is causing the protective effect of the vaccine but think it might alter immune cells so that they produce fewer inflammatory proteins called cytokines, which help drive sticky plaques of fat, cholesterol, and calcium to build up in the arteries.

The research was published in the journal *Nature Medicine*.

Taking HRT in midlife 'cuts dementia risk'

Research backs 'window of opportunity' theory that therapy in menopause may have brain health benefits

By **Laura Donnelly** HEALTH EDITOR

TAKING hormone replacement therapy (HRT) in midlife could cut the risk of dementia by up to a quarter, research suggests.

A study of more than 180,000 British women found that those who took HRT around the menopause had a lower risk of diseases such as Alzheimer's.

Lower risks were seen among women who started HRT between the ages of 46 and 56.

Scientists said the findings supported the theory of a "window of opportunity", when taking HRT may have the greatest benefits for brain health.

Research into HRT and dementia has produced conflicting findings. Some trials that raised concerns about dementia involved older women, including one in which participants were aged 65 or older when they began HRT. Scientists have questioned whether timing matters, with research suggesting HRT may have different effects when started around the menopause rather than years later.

Prof Aimee Spector, director of the Menopause Mind Lab at University College London, said the findings supported the window of opportunity theory. She said this suggested taking HRT during the menopause transition, when symptoms are typically most problematic, could be important.

She noted that studies often examined HRT use in older women, who may have fewer troublesome symptoms and be less likely to use it in practice.

About 400,000 women in the UK enter menopause each year, with about three-quarters having symptoms. These include hot flushes, night sweats, sleep problems and mood changes. HRT use has risen in recent years, with 2.8 million patients in England prescribed the treatment in 2024-25.

The study, led by researchers at the University of East Anglia and the University of Exeter, analysed data from more than 183,000 post-menopausal women in UK Biobank. Almost 4,000 developed dementia during an average follow-up period of 13 years.

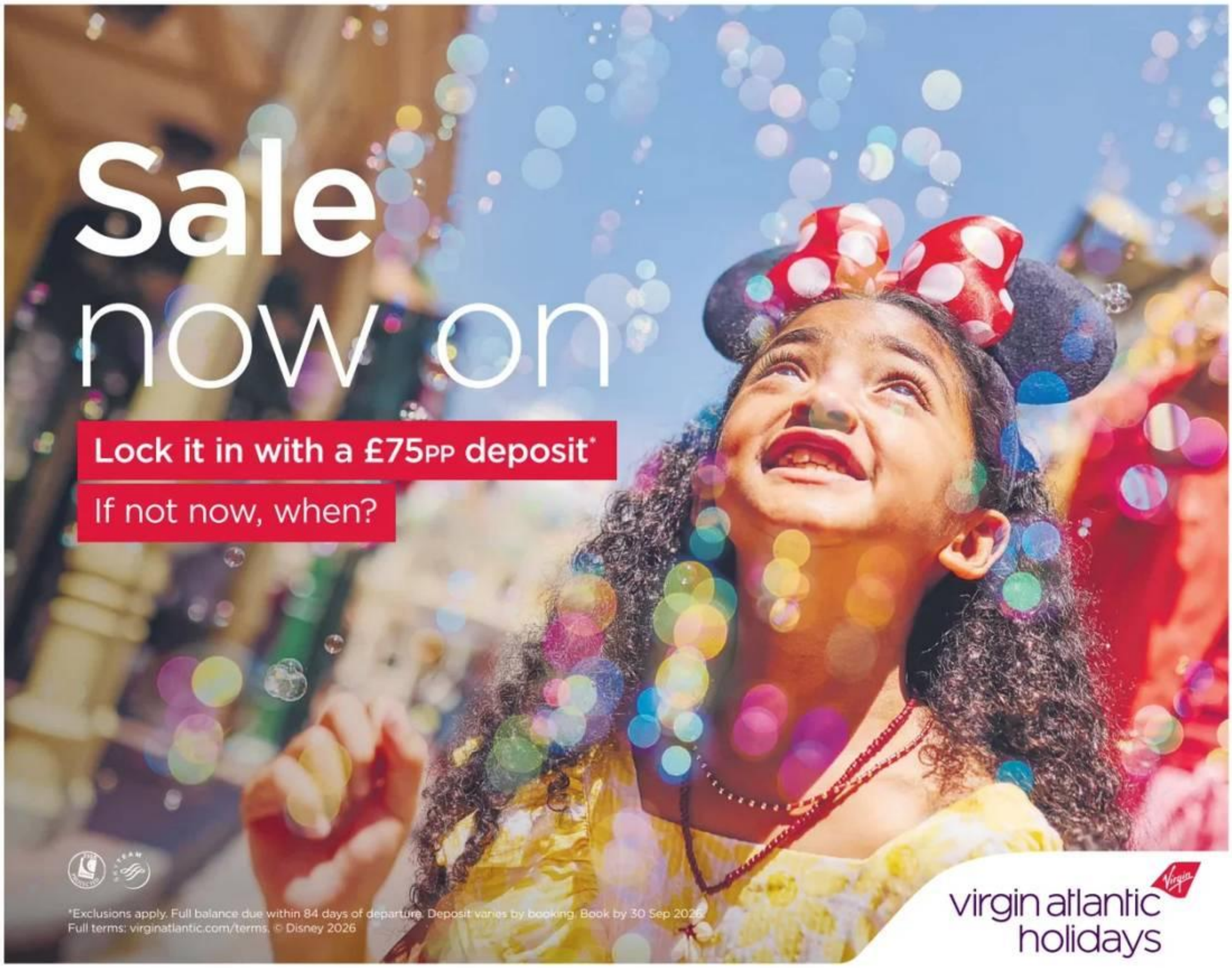
Overall, HRT use was associated with a 10 per cent lower risk of dementia and a 16 per cent lower risk of Alzheimer's disease. Researchers then examined whether the age at which women started treatment made a difference.

Those who began HRT aged 51 to 56 had a 23 per cent lower risk of dementia than women who had never taken the treatment. Those who started between 46 and 50 had a 13 per cent lower risk.

Women starting HRT at younger ages were also more likely to have an earlier menopause, which is itself linked to a higher risk of dementia. Researchers found that a woman's hormonal history also appeared to matter.

Prof Anne-Marie Minihane, study lead and director of the Norwich Institute for Healthy Ageing at UEA, said the apparent protective association was "not the same for all women".

She said: "While HRT has long been prescribed primarily to relieve menopausal symptoms such as hot flushes and night sweats, this work suggests it may also play a role in long-term cognitive health for some women."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Non appétit: Why cheese may taste a bit weird this year

French cows forced to eat hay instead of grass because of heat – altering flavour of Britain's favourite fromages

By **Henry Samuel** *in Paris and* **Alexandra Snow**

FRANCE has relaxed the rules governing some of its most famous cheeses after a "historic" drought forced a change to cows' diets.

The government granted emergency exemptions to the strict appellation regulations protecting Comté, Beaufort and Abondance after months without rain left Alpine and Jura pastures dry.

The rules are normally strictly applied. These clearly stipulate that the cheeses' protected (AOP) status rests not just on where they are made but on what their cows eat.

Beaufort, for example, must be produced from the milk of local Tarine or Abondance cows whose basic diet is grass and hay, overwhelmingly from its designated Alpine territory. Normally, at least three-quarters of their hay and pasture grass must come from the appellation area.

For example, Savoie, where Beaufort is produced, normally has enough rich grassland to feed its dairy cows.

This summer, however, the grass stopped growing.

As a result, the INAO, France's appellations watchdog, is allowing Beaufort farmers to obtain a greater share of hay and grass from elsewhere and give their cattle more supplementary feed.

Abondance cheese has been granted similar dispensation. Its cows normally have to spend at least 150 days a year grazing, while no more than 30 per cent of their annual dry fodder requirements may come from outside its Haute-Savoie production zone. Those requirements have been temporarily relaxed.

Comté, France's biggest AOP cheese by volume – more than 60,000 tons are sold annually – has been granted a narrower exemption.

The hard cheese is produced across the Jura mountains from the milk of Montbéliarde and French Simmental cows, and normally gets its floral taste from the region's extensive grasslands. But given the drought, some of the green maize fed to cows may come from outside individual farms until the end of October.

INAO has also approved temporary drought-related changes for Reblochon, Cantal, Bleu d'Auvergne, Fourme d'Ambert, Fourme de Montbrison, Bleu du Vercors-Sassenage and Rocamadour, , although some still await government decrees.

The Comté industry says its raw-milk cheese's flavour is "intimately linked to the cows' diet", with summer pasture producing yellower cheese while winter hay brings more pronounced nutty, vegetal and toasted notes.

Beaufort makers also insist that summer cows grazing on Alpine pasture rich in plant species produce cheese with more floral and fruity flavours, while hay-fed winter Beaufort is paler and milder.

Emily Monaco, cheese expert and host of the French food podcast Fishwives of Paris, said the rule changes will change the taste of the products.

She told *The Telegraph*: "AOP cheeses like these bear the fingerprint of the grass on which cattle graze, something that's encapsulated in the whole idea of terroir. If there's no grass for the cattle to graze on, they're fed forage.

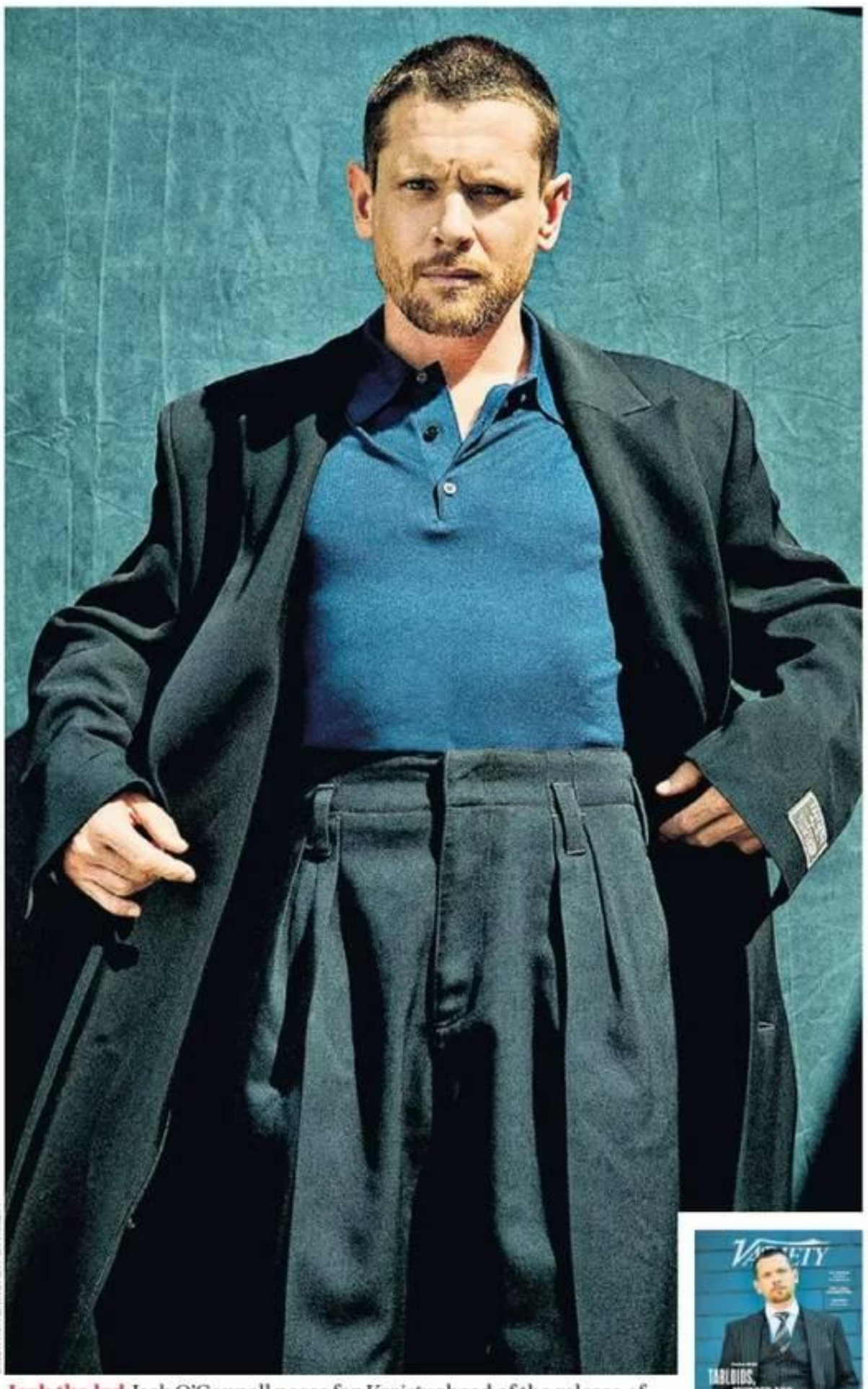
"This means that a cheese made in summer might nevertheless taste more similar to what one would expect of a winter iteration of that same cheese.

"We'd expect the cheese's paste [interior portion] to be far yellower when cows have been pastured on fresh grass, as compared to the more ivory hue of a winter cheese."

Jennifer Greco, a French cheese expert based in Paris, added: "Hay isn't as rich in minerals as fresh grass, and the animals drink more water during heatwaves, so the milk becomes more diluted and loses some of its depth of flavour."

Cheese lovers will have to wait to discover whether they can taste the summer of 2026 on the cheeseboard.

Comté must mature for at least four months – and averages eight – meaning the first drought-affected wheels could appear around Christmas but many will not reach shelves until spring 2027.



JASON HETHERINGTON FOR VARIETY

Jack the lad Jack O'Connell poses for *Variety* ahead of the release of *Ink*, in which he plays former *Sun* editor Larry Lamb. The film, directed by Danny Boyle, will open the Venice Film Festival on Sept 2.

Coldest days kill three times more people than hottest

By **Joe Pinkstone** *and* **Ollie Corfe**

THREE times more people die during cold snaps than when the weather is particularly hot, official data show.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that between 1988 and 2025, about 42,000 people died on the hottest days. However, on the coldest days almost 150,000 died in the same period.

Data suggest that the gap between deaths because of cold and heat is shrinking compared with what it used to be. For example, the average annual death toll from cold in the 1990s was four times as many people as from heat. But for the years 2015 to 2025, the average difference shrunk to 1.5-fold.

This trend is being driven by more frequent and persistent periods of very hot weather, which has resulted in heat-related deaths peaking in the summer of 2022, when temperatures in the UK reached 40C for the first time on record.

An estimated 0.39 per cent of all deaths in England across 2021-2025 were associated with the hottest days of the year, according to findings published by the ONS.

There were an estimated 4,652 heat-related deaths in England and Wales in 2022, the highest figure for any year on record.

Three of the five highest years are from the past 10 years: 2025 (2,805 deaths) and 2018 (2,617), along with 2022. All figures are based on modelled estimates of mortality and are not actual counts of deaths directly caused by extreme weather.

Commenting on the findings, James Tucker of the ONS said: "As our climate changes, including more frequent and prolonged periods of very hot weather, it is important to understand how both heat and cold affect mortality over time.

"Our results show that the gap between heat and cold-related deaths has narrowed in recent years as the proportion of heat-related deaths has increased.

Identifying which groups are most vulnerable can help inform climate adaptation planning and public health interventions."

Annual cold-related deaths peaked in 2010, at 19,105.

This year had the coldest December since Met Office records began in 1884, when snow fell across many areas of the country and temperatures remained below freezing during the day.

The ONS produced its estimates by modelling the number of deaths likely to be associated with the coldest 2.5 per cent and hottest 2.5 per cent of days across the time series, where mortality risk was increased. This included days below 0C and above 19C.

Pupil who said teacher had sex with him is fantasist, court told

By **Telegraph Reporter**

ONE of two former pupils who accused a teacher of having sex with him was a fantasist, a court has heard.

Sally-Anne Bowen, 65, allegedly indecently assaulted the boys when they were aged 14 to 15 and she was in her mid-20s.

She taught chemistry at the all-boys Christ's College in Finchley, north London, where she attracted considerable attention from pupils as a young female teacher in the 1980s, the court heard.

One complainant alleged he had sex with her "about 20 or 30 times" over several months, had visited her home, considered her to be his girlfriend and had fallen in love.

Ms Bowen told the court the allegations were "total fabrication" and "the workings of a fantasy".

The second complainant alleged he and Ms Bowen kissed once in a café when he was "goaded" by other boys. But Ms Bowen told the trial she could not recall the student.

In his closing speech at Harrow Crown Court yesterday, Mark Kimsey, the defence barrister, told jurors: "Ms Bowen is adamant she was not engaged in any sexual activity with any schoolboy. She is disgusted by the allegations.

"He [the first complainant] is a fantasist – the events did not happen, and neither did those claimed by the second complainant." He said the prosecution had sought to "rely on gossip and rumour to fill the void".

During the trial, jurors heard that Ms Bowen had a medical condition which, in the late 1980s, had not been diagnosed and which made intercourse difficult and painful for her.

"She has had to stand in front of you and discuss in graphic detail her sex life and how her rare medical condition makes it painful for her to have sexual intercourse," Mr Kimsey said.

Jurors also heard that a gynaecologist instructed by the defence concluded, following an internal examination, that "the alleged sexual activities were feasible" but could be painful for Ms Bowen.

Mr Kimsey said the expert's conclusion called into question the first alleged victim's claims that he had "vigorous sexual intercourse". "His account simply cannot be true," Mr Kimsey said, adding: "Ms Bowen does not know why he made those allegations – how can she? She denies them. She denies any with either of the men involved. But a fantasist does not think like you and I."

Sally-Anne Bowen denies indecent assault

The court heard the complainant told his story in a podcast, and when asked what he would do if he met Ms Bowen again, replied: "I might want to hug her, I might want to kiss her, I might want to f··· her, I might want to punch her in the face, I might want to cry."

Mr Kimsey added: "He is not a victim here – he's a dangerous fantasist. He blurred reality with imagination."

The trial heard Ms Bowen believed she had been "too friendly" with students. "She was young and naive and simply wanted to be friends with the students – a common mistake made by young teachers," Mr Kimsey said.

Ms Bowen, of Hemel Hempstead, Herts, denies seven counts of indecent assault.

The trial continues.

Horse trainer, 25, killed in cigarette car fire

By **Telegraph Reporter**

A YOUNG racehorse worker died after a cigarette is believed to have started a fire in his car, an inquest heard.

Hugh Mulryan, 25, was found dead in his burnt-out Volkswagen Passat near Malton, North Yorks.

Mulryan visited a pub in Malton, where he met racehorse trainer Adrian Keatley to discuss his new job, an inquest at Northallerton Coroner's Court on Tuesday.

He drank four or five pints of Guinness but did not appear drunk when he left the pub in his car at about 10pm.

Jonathan Leach, the coroner, said alcohol found in Mulryan's system was "just over" the legal drink-drive limit.

About an hour after leaving the pub, Mulryan was involved in a collision with a Vauxhall Astra carrying a couple on holiday from Merseyside.

John Kavanagh, a passenger in the Astra, told the inquest that Mulryan had driven the wrong way around a roundabout before colliding with the car, which was being driven by his wife Nora. No one was injured and Mulryan drove off afterwards.

Mr Kavanagh described Mulryan as being remarkably calm after the crash, which made him suspect he had been drinking alcohol, the hearing was told.

Hugh Mulryan was said to have drunk about five pints of Guinness before getting into his car

Several hours later, police discovered Mulryan's burnt-out Passat in a layby.

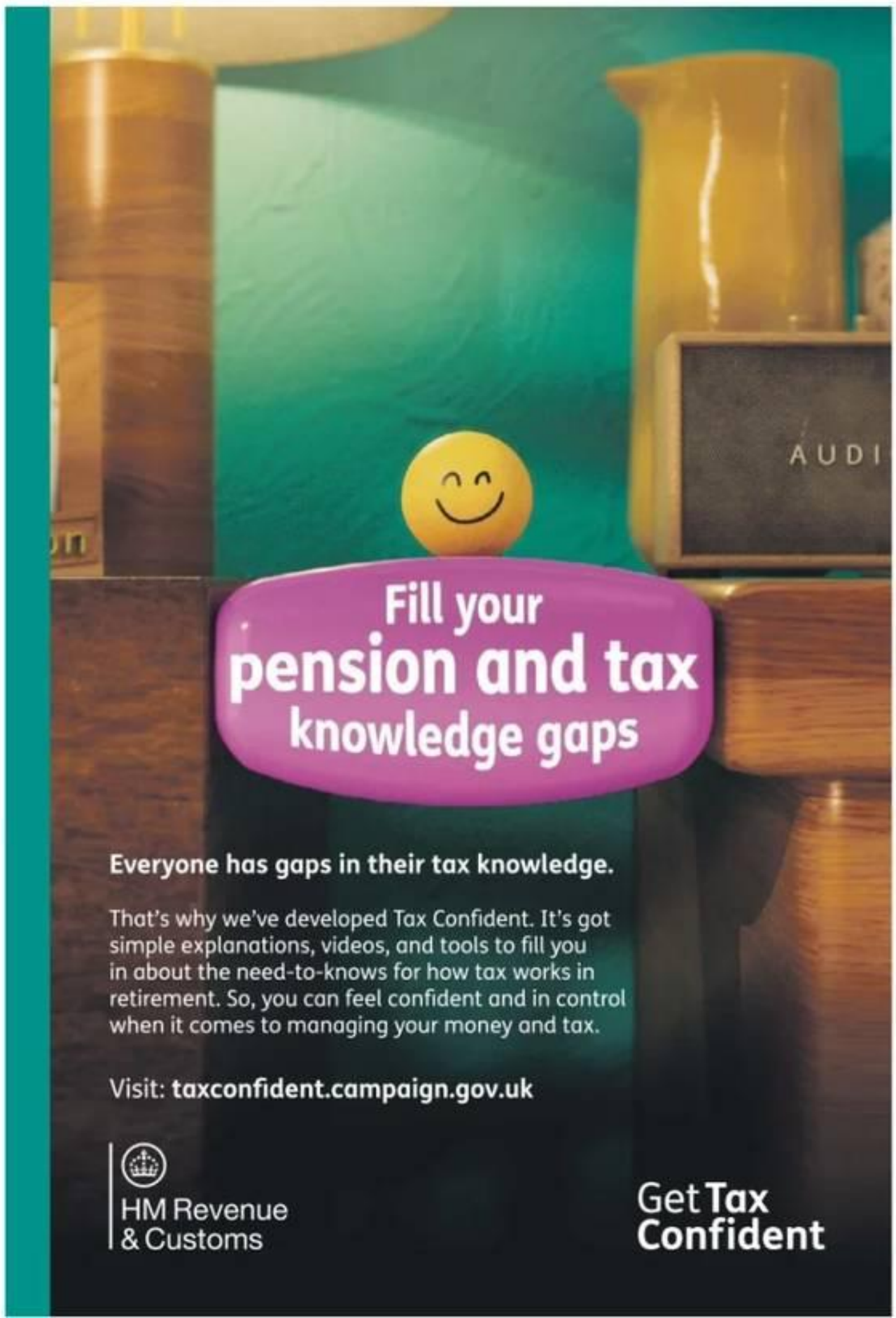
After firefighters extinguished some remaining flames they discovered Mulryan's body inside. North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service concluded that the blaze had started accidentally in a front footwell. Station manager Anna Atkinson-Spragg told the inquest that it was probable a cigarette had come into contact with something flammable inside the car. It could not be established whether Mulryan had been asleep when the fire began.

Mr Leach concluded that Mulryan's death was accidental and recorded his cause of death as smoke inhalation.

Mulryan had built up an impressive career in racing despite his young age. He had worked with trainers Denis Hogan and Sir Mark Prescott as well as Baroda Stud in County Kildare.

A spokesman for Baroda Stud said Mulryan had also been studying law alongside his work and described him as "such a great chap" and "very smart".

Mr Hogan previously told the *Racing Post* that Mulryan had been destined for a "very bright future". He added: "He could have done anything he wanted, but was just so keen on horses."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Netanyahu's wife sued over 'undeveloped Moroccan slur'

By **Henry Bodkin**
JERUSALEM CORRESPONDENT

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU'S wife is being sued for allegedly calling an employee an "undeveloped Moroccan".

Sara Netanyahu also faces accusations that she made the domestic staff member work unlawfully long hours and perform demeaning tasks such as cleaning the soles of her shoes with wet wipes.

The lawsuit by Rami Ben Hamo, who worked in the prime minister's office and residence for more than a decade, is the latest in a string of claims for compensation by former employees alleging abuse by Mrs Netanyahu going back years.

The claim that the 67-year-old made a racist remark, which she denies, comes at a sensitive political time for her husband. Mr Netanyahu's main opponent in October's general election, Gadi Eisenkot, the former IDF chief of staff, is from a Moroccan-Jewish background.

Israel's "Mizrahi" community (a term which loosely denotes Jews from the Middle East) is traditionally associated with Israel's working class, in contrast to the country's elite families, such as the Netanyahus, who are more likely to be Ashkenazi – Jews who trace their

'Mr Ben Hamo would find himself subjected to harsh attacks, insults and degradation'

roots back to Central Europe.

Mr Netanyahu's Likud Party has relied heavily on these voters in previous elections, but the polls suggest Mr Eisenkot, with his rags-to-riches story and no-nonsense demeanour, will make significant inroads into this bloc.

Mr Ben Hamo alleges that if he failed to heed Mrs Netanyahu's instructions he would "find himself subjected to harsh attacks, insults and degradation".

Claiming the equivalent of about £112,000 in compensation, he also said the alleged ethnic insults and unreasonable demands continued after he underwent a cardiac procedure.

The prime minister's office denied the allegations, dismissing them as "fake news and a continuation of the witch-hunt against the prime minister, his wife and his family which always intensifies during election campaigns".

Last month, another former employee of the prime minister's residence, Yehiel Ohev-Ami, also sued Mrs Netanyahu, alleging that she verbally and physically abused him. Mr Ohev-Ami is claiming the equivalent of more than £74,000, having been sacked from his job cooking and cleaning.

Mrs Netanyahu is an educational psychologist by profession. In response, the prime minister's office said Mr Ohev-Ami "failed in his job after working a short time at the residence".

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE/AFP VIA

President's best friend Volodymyr Zelensky cuddles a gift from American former boxer Terence Crawford, an American pit bull terrier puppy named Freya – a nod to the Freyja Ukrainian air defence system, which is now in development.

Italy proposes limit on migrant children in classrooms

By **Nick Squires** *in Rome*

GIORGIA MELONI'S government has proposed a 30 per cent cap on the number of migrant children in Italian classrooms.

The proposal has been put forward by Giuseppe Valditara, the education minister, who also wants to ban the wearing of burkas by schoolgirls.

The conservative coalition also wants compulsory Italian language classes for the parents of migrant children as part of the plans to encourage integration and avoid cultural ghettoes.

Parents who fail to send their children to school could also be prosecuted and jailed for up to two years.

"It is fundamental that there should not be a high percentage of foreign children in a classroom because it means they will find it harder to learn the Italian language and the values of our community," the minister said. "I will propose making Italian language learning mandatory for parents whose children aren't doing well at school."

It is not clear how the new rule, if adopted, would be enforced.

Migrant children from families where Italian was barely spoken risk losing much of what they have learned

26pc

Rate of school absenteeism among migrant children, compared with 6 per cent for Italian pupils

in school, he said. "The fact that a parent should know our language and interact with teachers is fundamental; there are too many parents of foreign children who don't show up at school, even though this is important."

He said that the rate of absenteeism among migrant children is 26 per cent, compared to 6 per cent for Italian children. The proposals will be discussed at a conference in autumn, which will bring together teachers, unions, student councils and politicians, Mr Valditara said.

Italy "welcomes" migrants, he said, but they need to understand the country's "identity and values".

Italy's demographics have changed in the last few decades as a result of immigration, from a largely white, native-born population to a multicultural society similar to France or the UK.

There are now 930,000 non-Italian children in the nation's schools, representing nearly 12 per cent of the total. That is up from 3.5 per cent two decades ago. In some schools the proportion is much greater, especially in the north, where a relatively thriving economy tends to attract more migrant families.

Imprisoning parents who do not send their children to school was criticised as "myopic" by FLC-CGIL, a teachers' union.

Trump bans Palestine Action as terror group

Far-Left organisation sanctioned alongside Hamas in first such case targeting British activists

By **Connor Stringer**
CHIEF WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

PALESTINE Action has been declared a global terrorist organisation by the US.

The protest group has been added to a list that includes Hamas, al-Qaeda and Islamic State, meaning supporters face a lifetime ban from entering the US.

US officials said that by promoting its "acts of terrorism" on social media, Palestine Action encouraged others to copy its tactics overseas, including in America.

It is the first known case of a British Left-wing activist group being subjected to US counter-terrorism sanctions.

Under the new measures, Palestine Action's assets in the US, including bank accounts and property, are being frozen, and Americans are banned from doing business with the group.

The sanctions also prohibit people from giving funds, goods or services to Palestine Action, effectively cutting it off from the global financial system.

Britons who continue to fund the organisation or take part in protests could themselves face harsh sanctions and visa bans, *The Telegraph* understands. They also risk being unable to open a bank account or get a mortgage.

Under the sanctions, Richard Barnard and Huda Ammori, who co-founded Palestine Action in the UK in July 2020 and are British citizens, face lifetime bans from the US. The move follows the UK Government's decision to proscribe Palestine Action as a terrorist group after activists broke into RAF Brize Norton and damaged military aircraft in June 2025.

Announcing the sanctions yesterday, Marco Rubio, the US secretary of state, said: "Far-Left terrorism poses a profound threat to the United States and the broader West. There will be no refuge for violent extremists who wage war on our civilisation and plot to undermine law and order, destroy critical infrastructure, assault political opponents, or conspire to conceal their crimes from authorities."

Since the Oct 7 2023 massacre in Israel, Palestine Action has conducted a campaign of trespass, vandalism and property damage against companies and buildings in the UK that it claims are linked to "Zionism". In August 2024, more than a dozen activists used a prison van to ram-raid the Horizon facility near Bristol, the UK branch of Elbit Systems, an Israeli-owned arms company. The activists attacked police officers with sledgehammers, according to police. In November 2024, protesters stole a bust of Israel's first president from Manchester University and daubed campus buildings, a research centre and a Jewish charity office with red paint to mark the 107th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

'Far-Left terrorism poses a profound threat to the United States and the broader West'

The group's American branch, Palestine Action US, was similarly formed to target, disrupt, and vandalise companies and defence contractors connected to Israel.

It later rebranded as Unity of Fields in 2024, transitioning from an anti-weapons protest group into a "militant propaganda front" targeting the US government and its allies.

Last year, *The Telegraph* revealed that it had helped fuel violent protests in LA. The group celebrated attacks on police and encouraged an "intifada" in response to the detention of illegal migrants.

Designating Palestine Action as a global terrorist organisation under America's counter-terrorism sanctions is part of Mr Rubio and the Trump administration's wider purge of far-Left organisations and their backers. In July, Mr Rubio called for a global crackdown on "far-Left terror" as he convinced more than 66 countries to work on the issue. He said: "The very idea that far-Left terrorism could be a serious threat is treated as a Right-wing fever dream, or worse, as a dangerous fascist conspiracy."

In July, the Court of Appeal in Britain upheld the Home Office decision to proscribe the terror group.

However, three Supreme Court judges have since granted Ms Ammori the right to challenge the ban, which came into force last year after the attack on RAF Brize Norton.

In July, the judges – Lord Sales, Lord Leggatt and Lady Simler – gave Ms Ammori permission on the basis that Yvette Cooper, the then home secretary, had incorrectly applied her own policy.

The Korean holiday island where dead bodies keep appearing

By **Allegra Mendelson**
ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE first body was found on Saturday in a small mountainous village on South Korea's Jeju Island.

The man, believed to be in his 60s, had been reported missing 51 days earlier.

The next day, a second man, this one in his 70s, was found in the waters off the northern coast of the same island. He had also been reported missing.

Two days later, two more bodies were found in other parts of Jeju Island, including that of 37-year-old Jang Mi-ran, whose case had garnered national attention because of alleged police negligence when she had first disappeared in May.

Four bodies turning up in three days – all missing persons who disappeared under different circumstances – would be shocking anywhere, but it is even more surprising on tiny Jeju Island.

With its white sandy beaches and crystal-clear water, Jeju is one of South Korea's top holiday and honeymoon destinations, boasting more than a dozen five-star resorts and receiving more than 13 million foreign and domestic tourists last year.

But that reputation now lies in tatters. At the centre of the scandal is a police officer, known only by his surname, Bu. He has been arrested and charged with lying to victims' families and prematurely closing missing persons cases.

Four officers in his chain of command have been placed on administrative leave.

Mr Bu was the officer responsible for handling the disappearances of the man in his 60s and of Ms Jang. In both instances, he allegedly claimed to have confirmed the victim's safety when he had done no such thing.

In the elderly man's case, it is alleged that Mr Bu claimed to have contacted his family and told them he was safe but that he "did not wish to disclose his location to the family". The man's son told reporters: "We believed the police when they said my father was safe and waited, but after 51 days, what returned was his body."

Police at a palm tree farm on Jeju Island where the body of missing Jang Mi-ran was found

Where the bodies were found
10 miles
JEJU ISLAND
SOUTH KOREA
1 Aug 22, Sengdang-ri Body of man in his 60s found
2 Aug 23, Sinheung-ri Body of man in his 70s found in water
3 Aug 24, Hallim-eup Body of 37-year-old woman Jang Mi-ran found
4 Aug 24, Aewol-eup Body of man in his 60s found in valley

In Ms Jang's case, Mr Bu had allegedly told her boyfriend that he had spoken to her on the phone and that she had informed him that she did not want to speak with him, but this phone call never happened.

After her initial disappearance in May, Ms Jang's boyfriend tried reporting the case again on July 17, but it was dismissed. Two days later, he filed another report – this time to a police station in Seoul and it was finally picked up.

Her body was found at a palm tree farm about 500 metres from where she was last seen. It is the renewed search for Ms Jang that seems to have set in motion the discovery of the other three bodies and blown open the scandal.

Authorities are now reviewing all 298 cases that have been handled by Mr Bu and are examining 10 for improper closure. Lee Jae Myung, the South Korean president, has ordered a sweeping reform of the police force.

'I rarely go out at night, but these days even taking a walk in Jeju feels a bit scary'

Under South Korea's system for missing persons cases, the officer responsible for a case can remove the designation without a supervisor's sign-off. More than 70,000 adults are reported missing in South Korea every year.

On Jeju Island, much remains unknown. The causes of death have not been confirmed in any of the cases.

It is not clear why Mr Bu would tell families that their loved ones were still alive. Mr Bu denies the charges against him and maintains that he did contact the missing persons in question, according to a police official.

But with reports of missing persons and dead bodies, people are now warning against travel to the island, while some have already cancelled their upcoming trips.

On social media, where the most scurrilous rumours run wild, some are questioning whether there might be an active serial killer on Jeju Island.

Jake Kwon, a BBC reporter in Seoul, called some of the coverage "ghoulish", adding: "This looks more like a case of police incompetence and laziness."

But the mood on the ground remains tense. Jin Jae-young, a South Korean actress who has lived on Jeju Island for nine years, posted a photo on Instagram, which she captioned: "I rarely go out at night, but these days even taking a walk in Jeju feels a bit scary."

Wanted: German police who speak German

Berlin force inundated with migrant applicants but almost half fail the language test, says chief

By **James Rothwell**
BERLIN CORRESPONDENT

BERLIN is struggling to hire enough police officers because applicants are unable to speak German, according to the force's president.

Barbara Slowik Meisel revealed that 40 per cent of applicants failed a test of their German language skills when trying to join the force. Ms Slowik Meisel said the trend, driven by increasing numbers of migrant applications, had created a dilemma for the Berlin police department: it cannot lower its standards but also urgently needs more officers.

"We have applicants, but we also have high standards that we cannot lower," she told RBB, a German broadcaster. "We have to explain our police actions day in and day out... and also possibly document things in writing."

"We are facing extremely fierce competition for suitable applicants, and the emphasis is on suitable," she said, adding that a quarter of about 1,200 entry-level positions were left unfilled in 2025.

Of the 240 officer cadets who began their training in spring 2025, 132 required extra German tuition, Berlin police figures show.

The German capital has the highest proportion of officers from a migrant background at 37 per cent, according to *Mediendienst*, an information service.

Applicants to the Berlin police force must pass a writing test by computer, as well as a dictation test and a test of their German grammar skills to become officers.

They must also demonstrate that they have a strong understanding of Germany's legal principles, and be able to explain them in a simple and clear manner to members of the public.

> 'We have applicants, but also have high standards that we cannot lower. We have to explain our actions'

The German police chief's intervention comes amid a fierce debate in Germany over mass migration and concerns over language levels in certain professions.

Alternative for Germany (AfD), the hard-Right populist party, has made integration of migrants a central issue in campaigning before key elections in the east of the country this September.

As *The Telegraph* revealed this month, one lifeguard at a swimming lido in east Germany issued a ban on non-German speakers because so many guests did not understand the safety rules.

Mathias Nobel, the head lifeguard at the Heidebad Halle, issued the rule after having to rescue a toddler who nearly drowned in a deep area of the waters.

Mr Nobel was accused of racism, despite insisting the new rule was purely based on safety and his concern that a tragedy might occur on his watch.

In an interview with *The Telegraph*, he also explained that most of the troublesome, non-German-speaking guests seemed to be from Russia or Ukraine.

Mr Nobel was publicly backed by the AfD, which claimed that German swimming pools and baths were becoming "danger zones" because of mass migration.

As *The Telegraph* reported, another swimming pool, in Berlin, was forced to cancel an event that excluded white swimmers because of a public backlash.

The *Volksbühne*, a theatre, had advertised an event where the pool would be open "exclusively to black communities".

PHILIP FONG / AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

People use ropes to pull Hirosaki Castle closer to its original position after it underwent repair works in Hirosaki, Aomori prefecture. Eight thousand people applied to help drag the building, with 1,800 securing a place

Moving home: People drag 360 ton castle back into position

By **Lilia Sebouai**

NEARLY 2,000 people have come together in northern Japan to haul a 360-ton castle closer to its original position by hand.

Alternating teams of 80 people pulled on 30m ropes to move the keep of Hirosaki Castle – which was set on rails – in Aomori, at the very northern tip of Japan's main Honshu island.

On Saturday, about 1,800 participants – selected in a public lottery and chanting "so-re, so-re" (roughly translating to "heave-ho") – towed the building 1.13m. On Sunday it was shifted another 1.09m.

"We had about 8,000 applications for the 1,800 slots over the last two days, roughly four times oversubscribed, so not everyone could participate," Kensuke Hayasaka, head of the parks and

> 'I pulled the castle 11 years ago too. It's very moving to be able to participate again'

green spaces division for Hirosaki, told *The Guardian*. "Not only from the city, but from across Japan and overseas; a fair number from south-east Asia and from Europe and North America."

To preserve the structure, participants used hikiya, a traditional technique that allows participants to slide the entire three-storey keep roughly 70m without dismantling it.

The city launched public participation in 2015, marking the first citizen-driven hikiya and the first time the method had been used to move a castle in a century.

"Because the keep is a nationally designated important cultural property, we didn't take it apart," Mr Hayasaka said. "We're using hikiya, a building-relocation method that has existed in Japan since ancient times."

Motoharu Nakata, 61, travelled from Hiroshima, 1,352km away, to take part.

"I pulled it 11 years ago too. It's very moving to be able to participate again," he told the *Sankei Shimbun*, a Japanese national paper.

The hand-pulling campaign, mainly a symbolic effort, will continue throughout August, moving the keep 5m in total.

Thieves steal 400,000 oysters from Australian seafood farmer

By **Lilia Sebouai**

HUNDREDS of thousands of oysters valued at around 350,000 Australian dollars (£180,000) have been stolen from an Australian farm.

More than 300 bags containing roughly 400,000 molluscs were taken near Taree, north of Sydney, New South Wales, police said yesterday.

The theft reportedly occurred earlier this year but was only reported to police on Tuesday. Officers are now searching for the stolen goods and appealing to the public for information.

Oysters are a festive delicacy in Australia, making them a prime target before Christmas and New Year's Day. Each mollusc takes three to four years to grow.

Ryan Freeman, the oyster farmer, told ABC News he had lost about a third of his stock, with 80 per cent of the stolen haul intended for Christmas sales.

"We probably get through 35,000 to 40,000 dozen at Christmas time," he said. "That's why the thieves would have targeted them, because they're not going to be far off; they're going to be able to sell them this Christmas," he added.

Mr Freeman said there was not enough time to replace the stock before the festive season, and that he did not have a full count of what remained. "It's going to have a massive impact," he said.

He added that he understood the pressures many people were under, but had little sympathy for the culprits. "I don't believe stealing and taking from someone else is going to help someone else; all you've done is take someone else out for a small reward and high risk," he said.

So-called "seafood rustling" is a growing issue worldwide. High-end oysters can sell for several dollars apiece in restaurants, prompting black-market traffickers to target poorly protected water farms.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing accounts for one in every five wild-caught fish globally, or around 11 to 26 million tons of seafood each year, according to US customs and border protection. The illegal trade draws between $23.5bn to $36.4bn (£17.2bn to £26.7bn) annually.

In France, authorities have deployed drones, helicopters, GPS tags and horsemen of the republican guard to deter thieves, and some farms now use DNA tracking. In some cases, investigators can trace stolen oysters back to their original estuary by testing the water chemistry absorbed into the shellfish. The Sydney rock oyster, the variety common to New South Wales, is a protandrous hermaphrodite – born male, with many switching to female as they mature.

Adapted to the harsh intertidal zones of eastern Australia – a coastal area that is above water at low tide and underwater at high tide – they endure extreme marine heatwaves and extended low tides by clamping its shell shut exceptionally tightly.

Italian beaches bring in 130,000 octopuses to battle crab invasion

By **Nick Squires** *in Rome*

ITALY has come up with a new weapon in its war against an invasive species of crab – an army of voracious octopuses.

Tens of thousands of them are being released at sea to take on blue crabs, which have proliferated since accidentally being introduced into Italian waters decades ago.

The crustaceans, named for their striking blue claws, are causing huge damage to coastal economies by cutting holes in fishing nets and munching on commercially valuable clams and mussels, and closing businesses.

Coldiretti, an association representing fishermen and farmers, estimates that the damage has so far totalled around €200m (£170).

Blue crabs, native to the Atlantic, have found a new home in the Mediterranean

The blue crabs, which can grow to 2.2lb in weight, have few natural predators – until now. Italian scientists have released 130,000 baby common octopuses in the hope that once they are fully grown, they will attack and eat the blue crabs.

They were released off the Adriatic coastal towns of Riccione and Cesenatico in an area hard hit by the crabs, native to the Atlantic. The octopuses were bred in laboratories and released as newly hatched "paralarval", when they are just a few millimetres long. Biologists say that once they are fully grown, the cephalopods will be capable of catching and eating up to four crabs a day.

"They are a predator capable of contributing to the control of the blue crabs," said Oliviero Mordenti, a scientist from Bologna University, which is managing the project with the regional Emilia-Romagna government.

Scientists have created underwater dens for the octopuses to afford some protection as they grow to maturity.

The project has been dubbed Octo-Blu, a combination of octopus and blue, as in the crab. "We chose the octopus because, in the wild, it is a formidable predator of crustaceans," Antonio Casalini, an aquaculture expert from Bologna University, told AFP news agency.

The initial army of 130,000 baby octopuses is just the start. As scientists breed more, more will be released.

"The crab represents one of the most serious crises to have hit our waters," said an Emilia-Romagna spokesman. In some areas they have destroyed 70 per cent of clam production,

Authorities hope Italians will develop a taste for them and it has started appearing on sale in supermarkets and fishmongers, and on restaurant menus.

Surrogate who refused to abort baby accused of 'stealing' child

By **Daniel Bates**

THE biological mother of a baby at the centre of a bitter custody dispute sobbed in court as she accused her surrogate of trying to steal their child.

Nausheen Gilkar said that McKenna West was trying to take control of the baby boy. She accused Ms West of being "unstable" and said that the condition of the child had deteriorated to the point where the infant is in a critical condition.

The case became a flashpoint for pro-life activists in the US after Ms West refused the request from Ms Gilkar and her husband Omar Ahmed to abort the baby at 20 weeks after he was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect.

The 28-year-old cardiac nurse flew from her home in Alaska to Texas to give birth, a state where most abortions are banned.

After arriving in Texas, Ken Paxton, the state attorney general, intervened in the case to ensure the child got medical treatment after birth. The baby was born on Aug 12 and has been in hospital since then.

On Tuesday, a hearing at a courtroom in Dallas was held to determine whether a restraining order preventing Ms West from having contact with the child and making decisions about his welfare should be enforced. Ms Gilkar said that the child, who she calls Rumi but Ms West calls Gabriel, was the "most beautiful person I've ever seen".

Nausheen Gilkar and Omar Ahmed, the biological parents of the child, at a court hearing in Dallas

She called the baby "the love of our lives" but told the court he was "suffering a lot". "She's (Ms West) making us run from doctor to doctor, state to state. With our baby – she's trying to take him," Ms Gilkar said.

She told the court that the baby had been put on a breathing tube after open-heart surgery and needed a blood transfusion because of hypoplastic left heart syndrome, which affects 1,000 newborns each year and can lead to death within days without treatment.

Ms West told the court that she booked the abortion at 23 weeks but backed out because she was uncomfortable with it. She now wants sole custody of the child. She said: "I knew that this baby, despite the diagnosis, had a great chance at survival and a great chance at leading a long life."

The judge did not rule on custody but left the restraining order in effect.

Comment

My mum's phone line ordeal shows what's wrong with faceless firms

JEMIMA LEWIS

Last week, two strangers appeared on the doorstep of my elderly and almost completely blind mother.

They drilled a hole through her front wall, dragged her heavy furniture into the middle of the room and left it there for her to fall over, disconnected her landline, installed a Wi-Fi router with a new address so that all her household gadgets were no longer connected to the internet, and moved her phone from the front hall (where she could always hear it) to the dining room (where she could no longer hear or find it).

Finally, inexplicably, they removed her doorbell and – having thus cut her off from all communication with the outside world – drove away with it.

On the plus side, Rob from BT's "executive complaints" department seemed genuinely contrite. "This should never have happened," he kept groaning, quite choked with emotion. "We have robust systems in place!"

Systems, schmystems, that's what I think. It's systems, not humans, that treat people like this. Giant corporations like BT and its subsidiary OpenReach cannot have personal relationships with their customers, so they have computer systems instead.

This has the advantage that, when the system goes wrong, no one is to blame. But for the customers on the receiving end (which is all of us eventually, because our lives are now governed by giant corporations and their awful systems) it generates a particularly dystopian feeling of despair.

What happened to my mother was both specific and, as a symptom of modern life, universal. In January, Britain's old network of copper landlines will be switched off forever. It is expensive to run, worth billions in scrap metal, and increasingly redundant now that everyone just uses their mobile phones. Except the old, whose habits die hard.

Still, there's no stopping "progress": everyone must be forced over to the new digital network. There was a note on my mother's account flagging her as vulnerable, so she should have been given extra support by engineers trained in helping disabled people.

But – guess what? – there was a glitch in the system. The note was never passed on to OpenReach, the subsidiary in charge of installing the digital infrastructure for all of Britain's 688 domestic and business communications providers.

As I say, this is not just a BT problem. It's a systemic problem, caused by systems themselves. In December last year, Ofcom imposed a fine of £23.8m on Virgin Media for "serious systemic failures", after it abruptly disconnected around 3,500 telecare users (elderly and disabled customers whose personal alarms and monitoring systems were linked to their landlines). Two Virgin Media customers died within days of their pendant alarms stopping working, although no direct causal link was established.

For every direct victim of a systemic failure, there is an unquantifiable burden of stress for those who care for them. I must have wasted the equivalent of at least one working day this week, either on hold to BT's customer care line, or trying in vain to sort out my mother's IT myself, or writing increasingly explosive emails to the chief executive. (For future reference, go straight to the top. That's how you end up talking to Rob in executive complaints.)

Worst of all, as I explained to Rob, is the feeling of impotence that accompanies all this unwanted admin. The knowledge that the system itself doesn't care. "I promise you, we take these learnings extremely seriously," insisted Rob. He was a nice guy. A human. But it's the system I don't trust.

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Trump is single-handedly wrecking conservatism around the globe

The president has created a worldwide feeling that it is better to be America's enemy than its friend

DANIEL HANNAN

What the hell are they thinking? Why are Icelanders, who are among the wealthiest, happiest and freest people in the world, discussing whether or not to restart accession talks with the EU?

That chilly black island, with a population the size of Croydon's, is holding a referendum on Saturday. The governing parties are campaigning for a Yes vote, while the Rightist opposition, along with some hard-Left parties, is for No. Polls currently show a narrow but consistent lead for the pro-accession side.

True, it is a vote on whether to talk rather than on whether to join, but it is still a bizarre exercise. Icelanders don't need a referendum to see what the EU is like; they can do that now. The danger is that, if they vote in favour, their Europhile leaders will immediately set about harmonising their standards in anticipation of full membership.

You can see why the EU wants Iceland to join. GDP per head there is much higher than in the EU, meaning that Iceland would be a big net budget contributor; its fishing grounds are among the best managed on the planet, in contrast to Europe's depleted waters; the accession of a rich Western country would be an important morale boost after Brexit.

What, though, is in it for Iceland? Why would a country with one of the oldest parliamentary traditions on the planet subject itself to EU law – especially when that country already has full access to EU markets through the European Economic Area? Iceland explored membership once before, after the 2008 banking crash. But, by 2015, the Icelandic economy had recovered more impressively than the EU's, and the application was withdrawn. What has changed?

Two words: Donald Trump.

Iceland has no army. Its security rests on Nato and on a 1951 bilateral defence pact with the United States. That arrangement has served both sides well, ensuring Western control of the Atlantic sea lanes while guaranteeing Icelandic sovereignty.

Trump's clumsy grab for Greenland – whose land mass is so vast that it manages to be simultaneously north, south, east and west of Iceland – made some Icelanders nervous. What if their American ally turned out to be, not a champion of freedom, but a revanchist bully? Local Europhiles who, as in every country, are more numerous among the political class than in the general population, saw their chance and called a snap referendum.

We shall have to wait and see whether Icelanders fall into the EU's trap. This, though, is far from the first time that Trump has harmed the electoral prospects of the traditional Right. Denmark's conservative bloc was riding high in the polls and scoring remarkable municipal wins – until, again, Trump's aggressive territorial demand on Greenland, which is under Danish sovereignty. The socialist government spotted its moment and held an immediate poll; Danes rallied to the flag, and the Left was re-elected.

Trump is single-handedly destroying global conservatism. The parties that have traditionally been pro-American are tainted by association, however much they distance themselves from him personally.

The most extreme example was Canada where, prior to his annexation threats, the Conservatives were 20 per cent ahead in the polls. Then came the demands that Canada become a US state, demands backed by trade sanctions. Trump apologists sometimes suggest that the whole "51st state" shtick is just a bit of banter, but that is not how it was, or is, seen by our Canadian allies. Trump tore up the USMCA trade deal – the deal he had insisted on negotiating to replace NAFTA, which he had hailed as "the fairest, most balanced and beneficial trade agreement we have ever signed into law" – in order to apply tariffs to Canadian exports.

The impact on Canada's Tories, the pro-American party, the party that had decried Pierre Trudeau's shameful flirtation with Cuba, was catastrophic. It did not matter that their leader, the outstanding Pierre Poilievre, was proposing a more rational response to the threat, namely energy abundance and economic resilience. A people under siege do not think rationally. They draw together against the aggressor. They rally to the incumbent.

All Mark Carney had to do was to look manly, narrow his eyes and repeat banalities to the effect that Canada would never become a US state. It carried him to victory in last year's election; now, whenever his support flags, Trump comes along with another set of aggressive proposals to perk him up again.

The Trump effect even stretched across the Pacific. Last year's Australian election, which had been tight, turned into a Labor landslide, with the Rightist leader, Peter Dutton, even losing his own seat. Trump was not the main factor. But, as everywhere else, the parties that had been historically pro-American were clobbered, and there was nothing they could do about it.

The Trump effect is not uniform. He does less damage to conservatives in countries that have their own traditions of strongman government. Several Latin American nations have elected Rightist presidents on pro-security and anti-immigration platforms, for example. Not, though, in Mexico, which has been hardest hit by Trump's tariffs, and where the far-Left president Claudia Sheinbaum saw her popularity soar in consequence.

Trump's impact is strongest on Western liberal democracies. He has created a sense that it is better to be America's enemy than its friend, for it buys its enemies and sells its friends. Never once has he spoken about Vladimir Putin in the way he talks of Canadians, Norwegians, South Koreans and other old partners. Similarly, within those countries, the parties that stood shoulder to shoulder with the US in its many conflicts, and who were strongest in their support after 9/11, find themselves punished for that proximity.

Which brings us to the final irony. Having burned through decades of accumulated diplomatic goodwill and having needlessly pushed up the cost of living with his demented trade policies, Trump is now destroying the Right in the largest Western democracy of all: the US.

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Never once has he spoken about Vladimir Putin in the way he talks of Canadians, Norwegians, South Koreans and other old partners

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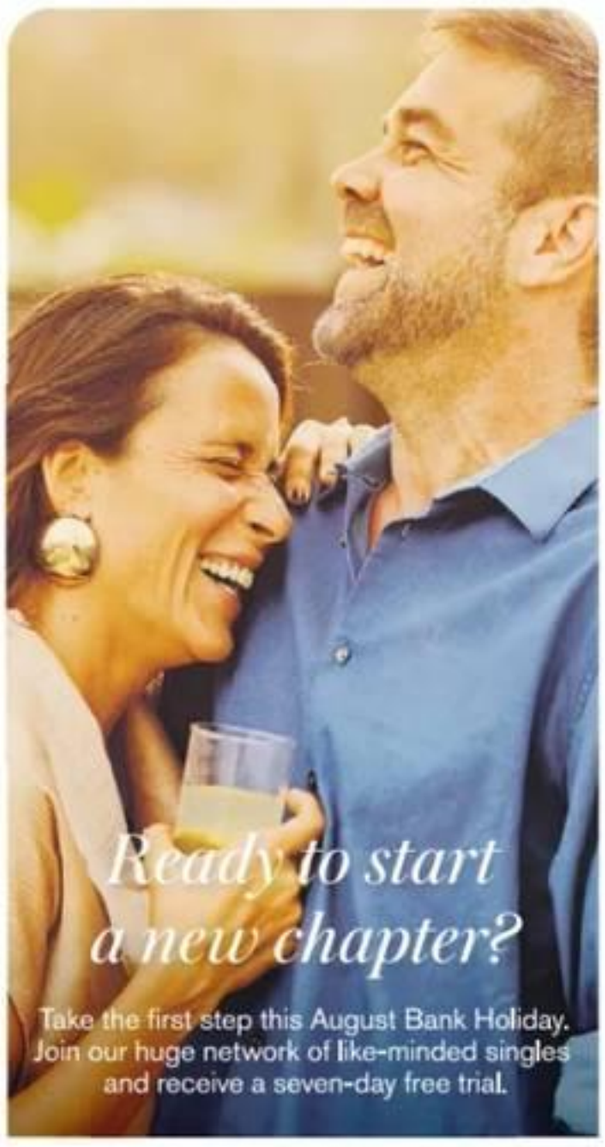
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The BBC's bias has an insidious new face

Radio Four's reporting includes misrepresentations of me to which I have been given no chance to respond

MICHAEL HOWARD

Most of the criticisms of the bias of the BBC tend to focus on examples of explicit bias, actual or perceived, on issues of party politics on the news programmes such as *Today* or *Newsnight*.

Less attention is given to other programmes which, more insidiously, seek to influence the attitude of viewers or listeners on issues which may not seem to be, and are sometimes not, directly related to party politics – but nevertheless form part of people's general opinions which, in turn, feed into their politics.

One example is a recent series of programmes on BBC Radio Four devoted to the proposition that it is morally wrong to want to bequeath any money to your children.

Another, which is what prompted this article, is a current series, also on Radio Four, about falling crime. This programme, presented by Mark Easton, sets out to prove that the fall in crime which has been happening over the past 30 years has nothing to do with the increase in the prison population or the number of police officers.

It proclaims its dedication to honesty yet includes misrepresentations of me and other politicians to which we have been given no opportunity to respond.

Here is what actually happened. The fall in crime, according to the British Crime Survey, began in 1995 though the recorded crime figures had begun to show a fall slightly earlier. I was home secretary at the time.

When I was appointed by John Major, who is also criticised in the programme, I was told by Home Office officials that crime, which had been rising for the previous 50 years, was bound to continue to rise and that there was nothing I could do about it.

My job, they said, was to manage public expectations in the light of this inevitable increase. I didn't take this advice. Instead I put in place a number of measures which I hoped would reverse this trend. But I wasn't confident I could do it.

However, when I left office in 1997, nearly a million fewer crimes were committed annually than in 1993.

What were the measures I put in place? First, I introduced a widespread use of CCTV cameras, which had led to a fall in crime in Northumbria where they had been introduced by John Stevens, its chief constable and later commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

This had the effect both of deterring criminals from committing crimes, knowing they would be caught on camera, and making it easier to apprehend those who were not deterred.

Then I established the world's first national DNA database, building on, but going beyond, the recommendations of a recent report from a Royal Commission. This made it easier for the police to track down those responsible for the most serious crimes, including murder and rape.

I also changed the so-called right of silence – not abolishing it, but making it possible for the silence of an accused in response to questioning to be referred to at any subsequent trial and taken into account in the verdict of the jury.

Previously a burglar could, for example, claim at his trial that the house he had entered was, he thought, the house of his brother-in-law and no one was allowed to ask him why he hadn't said so at the time. As many police officers told me, this change significantly increased the number of criminals who pleaded guilty rather than contesting their trial.

And, of course, I made a 1993 speech in which I said "prison works". By this I meant that if serious and persistent criminals were in prison the public would be protected from them – a proposition that is impossible to refute.

And, far from releasing prisoners early, I was able to end the humiliating practice of slopping out, which had been a blot on our prison system for so long and which continued in Scotland for some time thereafter.

It is sadly true that imprisonment is not the key to rehabilitation, a defect it shares with other sentences, but that key has proved frustratingly elusive despite the well-meaning efforts of so many to find it.

The changes I made were vehemently opposed by the civil liberties lobby, which was given extensive media coverage by Mark Easton and his colleagues. Could this have something to do with their resolute refusal, even today, to admit that these changes might, just possibly, have something to do with the fall in crime?

None of them, apart from the rise in imprisonment, have been so far mentioned by Mr Easton in his programmes. Yet they have all remained in place for more than 30 years regardless of the political party of my successors in that office.

Had I been given the opportunity to reply to Mr Easton's criticisms, I would have been able to mention these reforms. And the failure to offer me that opportunity is surely a breach of the BBC's own guidelines.

Is there any wonder that so many people have lost faith in the BBC's ability to provide balanced coverage of the issues which are of such concern to the public?

Lord Howard of Lympne served as Britain's home secretary from 1993 to 1997

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

ESTABLISHED 1855

Labour can't dodge blame for energy costs

With the energy price cap set to rise to a three-year high, persistent Labour promises of cheaper gas and electricity are increasingly threadbare. Ofgem says the cap will rise by four per cent, or £60 on average, to £1,723 on October 1. Ministers blame the Ukraine war and the Gulf conflict, both of which have clearly had an impact on global supply. But home-grown domestic policies are also culpable.

In one of his first acts as Prime Minister, Andy Burnham announced a temporary removal of VAT from electricity bills. But the savings will be wiped out by the price cap rise. The Prime Minister might well argue that his move has lessened the impact, but Labour's bold talk of falling household bills has turned out to be hollow. It is an object lesson in making promises that events can easily knock off course.

In February, the Government heralded a decrease in the price cap but the ink was hardly dry on the press release when Donald Trump launched attacks on Iran, causing consternation in the world's energy markets and wrecking Labour's hopes of falling prices to ease cost of living pressures.

With the Gulf crisis unresolved and the US seeking to choke off Iran's oil exports, prices are surely certain to rise further, possibly by another 10 per cent in January.

Ministers give the impression that this is all beyond their control and no fault of Labour policies. Miatta Fahnbulleh, the Energy Secretary, said that it is not true that net zero is adding to costs. She pointed out that marginal pricing of energy means cheap renewables are charged at the market gas rate.

But this is an argument for reviewing the system, otherwise the benefits of cheaper wind and solar energy will never be passed on. Moreover, if gas is a globally priced commodity, why do other countries, notably America, have much lower prices?

Indeed, industrial electricity in the UK remains more expensive than in its competitor economies, making Mr Burnham's vaunted plans to revive British manufacturing a pipe dream. The Government continues to dither over whether to exploit North Sea oil and gas fields to secure tax revenues, improve energy security and reduce the carbon footprint associated with importing it, mainly from the US and Norway.

The fact is that the UK's energy policy has been a mess for the past 50 years and remains so.

A Meta turning point

Was this social media's tobacco moment? The settlement by the tech giant Meta of an American lawsuit related to child safety on Facebook and Instagram is reminiscent of the long legal battle to force cigarette companies to accept responsibility for the damage caused by their products.

Ironically, despite agreeing to pay £13bn in damages, Meta denies any culpability in harming the mental health of children through injudicious use of algorithms. Yet the settlement requires Meta to introduce certain rules for children, including daily limits and night-time blocks. This surely acknowledges that there are issues around excessive and potentially addictive social media use. The US states suing Meta claimed it used its platforms "to entice, engage, and ultimately ensnare youth and teens", and ignored the damage they did to the "mental and physical wellbeing of America's youth".

Again, the parallels are strong with tobacco. The legal actions brought against cigarette makers alleged they boosted nicotine levels and added ammonia to their product to make sure smokers became addicted.

Meta denies its algorithms are designed to keep users glued to their platforms, and it is the case that Facebook and Instagram are less popular now among youngsters than they once were. Other platforms, including TikTok, are under pressure to install similar safety features.

It is telling that the courts have been more successful in forcing the tech giants into changing their practices far more readily than government regulations. Hitting them in the wallet clearly has a salutary effect.

Sussex soap

They're back! Meghan and Harry – as the Sussexes tend to be called in their soap-opera roles – have shaken the dust of California from their feet in time for the school term. We had come to see their habitat as a sunny kitchen, making jam from semi-tropical garden fruit. All they'll find here are shrunken apples and cucumbers bent by drought. Their advent irresistibly suggests that the world is run by bad scriptwriters. We are used to random lurches in the lives of Ambridge, where a policeman suddenly splits up with his wife and a farmer's daughter with a child suddenly declares herself a lesbian. The arrival here of Archie and Lilibet will be like Noluthando and Sipho jetting back to Borchester. An *Archers* plotline, though, would surely make more of the Sussexes' unfeeling abandonment of their chickens in old California.

Letters to the Editor

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Pensioners don't deserve to be treated as a convenient source of funds

SIR – The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) has urged the Prime Minister to introduce National Insurance on pensioners' incomes (report, August 26).

It argues that this is needed to combat growing financial pressures caused by an ageing population. How very convenient and disingenuous to blame us. What about the out-of-control welfare system, or the massive costs of illegal immigration?

Peter Rosie
Ringwood, Hampshire

SIR – Andy Burnham would have been made aware of the problems of an ageing population back in his New Labour days. Sadly, he and that government had other priorities.

Prudent pensioners therefore made their own calculations and financial arrangements in order to ensure a reasonable old age.

The idea of snatching this away is not only a fiscal nonsense; it would also run the risk of leaving more people reliant on the state. How does that help anyone?

Alastair Prain
London SW1

SIR – I am a pensioner, and wouldn't mind paying a bit more tax to help the country fund properly its defence requirements, for example.

However, I draw the line at more taxes to pay for shirkers, life-stress-related benefit claims, crazy net zero subsidies, and generally inefficient and over-staffed public services.

Fix these first, Mr Burnham.

Alan Law
Streatley, Berkshire

SIR – When I retired, I reduced my expenditure to match my income. If the Government is finding that its income is not sufficient, may I suggest that it too reduces its expenditure rather than always looking for new sources of tax revenue?

Phil Mobbs
Kendal, Cumbria

SIR – I would point out that the British state pension is laughably inadequate compared with those of many other developed countries. On average it only replaces 22 per cent of pre-retirement earnings.

Mark Prior
Plymouth, Devon

SIR – The IPPR's advice is predicated on the idea that the Government is able to spend pensioners' money more effectively than they can themselves.

My parents are both 89, and my father suffers from severe dementia. As a result of his investment decisions, he has saved money for precisely this situation. We can therefore choose the very best care from a wonderful team. It is costing a huge amount of money, but we are not drawing on any public funds.

The Government appears to feel entitled to such money. We will make better use of it.

Ian MacGregor
London N2

Chagos realities

SIR – As the debate over the sovereignty of the Chagos Islands reopens ("Burnham faces Chagos showdown at UN summit", report, August 26), the Prime Minister should focus on the following points: Mauritius never owned the archipelago in the first place; the Chagossians have a right to self-determination and want Britain to retain sovereignty; and taxpayers will resent paying Mauritius billions for something it never owned.

Even if the Prime Minister dismisses these issues, he should note that Donald Trump may well veto the deal anyway, which he is entitled to do, because it would allow China to expand its malign influence and footprint in the Indian Ocean.

Rear Admiral Philip Mathias (retd)
Southsea, Hampshire

Cash and freedom

SIR – Cash (Letters, August 26) plays a vital role in helping people retain their independence. I help a few elderly people – most in their 80s, some younger – who are happy at home but unable to get out easily. They have cleaners, gardeners, chiropodists and hairdressers who visit and are paid in cash. I go shopping for them and they repay me in cash. If they lost this independence, it could come at a cost to the state, which could be required to send helpers or put them in a home.

Mag Humphreys
Wadebridge, Cornwall

SIR – Cash is indeed useful. However, I have noticed that some members of Gen Z appear to regard it as louche or suspect. Is only Apple Pay respectable, and a £20 note somehow disreputable?

Neil Sewell-Rutter
Oxford

Sweltering but smart

SIR – B V Anson (Letters, August 26) favours maintaining formal dress at Glyndebourne, despite the heat, out of respect for the performers. I have attended two Spanish weddings at which temperatures have been over 30C, yet all the male guests have worn suits and ties out of respect for the bride and groom.

David Dunn
Málaga, Spain

SIR – At functions in hotter parts of the world, some men wear evening dress without the jacket but with the addition of a colourful cummerbund. This is known as the "Red Sea rig".

Michael Whitlam
Rotherfield, East Sussex

Enjoying the sun: lavender on display outside a house in Chelsea, west London

Horticultural victories in the hot weather

SIR – Last year, I made use of an area of poor soil near some large ash trees. Remembering that herbs can grow in any soil, I gave them a go.

I divided the area between lavender (Comment, August 22), sage, thyme, oregano, rosemary and chives. With the exception of the chives, they have flourished in the heat. I also grow mint and parsley, but in separate pots, as mint spreads underground and parsley needs a lot of water.

Polly Hurlow
Marnhull, Dorset

SIR – Why has my two-year-old Discovery apple tree suddenly started blossoming? Is it trying to tell me something?

Angela Master
Felsted, Essex

Democracy and the local planning process

SIR – In your report (August 25) about Angela Rayner's "garden grab", a spokesman for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government says: "Local people will still be able to have their say, and councils must take those views into account." The ministry seems to be unaware of its own policies.

From the end of October, under new legislation, local democratic oversight of the planning process will be curtailed. Unelected officers will be given power to decide on the approval of any development of up to nine houses, even if there are hundreds of local objections. Councillors will have their power to "call in" any application to the planning committee removed.

Even schemes of 10 or more houses can only be called in with approval from senior planning officers, effectively giving unelected officials a veto over public scrutiny.

This policy is totally at odds with Andy Burnham's claim that he will devolve power to the regions. It is unsurprising it has been given so little publicity by the Government.

David Bartholomew
Shiplake, Oxfordshire

SIR – I have attended too many planning meetings led by councillors who reflect a narrow demographic and are influenced by a fear of how new housing might affect their re-election prospects. By contrast, when planning inspectorates review appeals, the process is generally more impartial and focused on planning merits alone.

Handing greater control to mayors (report, August 24) could help to ensure that decisions serve the needs of the wider area. It would also help to align housing developments with infrastructure, transport and other services that cross council boundaries, rather than allowing decisions to focus on one local authority's interests.

Jonathan Pearson
London W1

Rising energy bills

SIR – According to your report ("Households warned of 'worse to come' as energy bills rise", telegraph.co.uk, August 26), Miatta Fahnbulleh, the Energy Secretary, has said that the Government will keep looking at what it can do "to protect families from unaffordable bills".

You also report (telegraph.co.uk, August 26) that bills will increase by £260 in the next decade as a result of the net zero drive.

Isn't it obvious what the Government should do? End green subsidies (which are giving us some of the highest energy bills in Europe), abandon the ridiculous, unachievable net zero targets, and drill the North Sea.

Dr Fiona Underhill
Woodford Green, Essex

Unsafe Britain

SIR – Like Allison Pearson ("Britain is no longer safe for women and children", Features, August 26), I am disgusted by the state of this country – and have been for some time.

I think she answers her own question: why aren't we angrier? It is because there is no point, since nobody who can actually do anything is listening. We are confronted by a Government, civil servants, lawyers and do-gooding charities with an interest in maintaining the status quo.

Thankfully, Ms Pearson has voiced what many people in Britain believe.

Frances Braithwaite
London SE6

A first-class service?

SIR – Last Wednesday, I posted a letter to South Yorkshire from a Post Office in Buxton, Derbyshire – first-class, guaranteed next-day delivery and "signed for".

It still has not arrived. It is impossible to find out why, even though I have been given a code number and am using Royal Mail's "track your item" service.

What a wonderful privatisation that was.

Dr Bill Easson
Buxton, Derbyshire

Dolly Parton's wisdom

SIR – Dolly Parton (Obituaries, August 26) was a uniquely inspirational singer, whose beautiful voice and poetic lyrics resonated in hearts and souls.

I remember seeing her at the Hammersmith Odeon, where her legendary authenticity and sheer presence overwhelmed the audience.

My favourite song was the biblically inspired *Coat of Many Colors*, featuring the lines, "My coat of many colours was worth more than all their clothes" and "one is only poor only if they choose to be".

These reveal a profound view of poverty that is rarely mentioned today. Poverty is not just material – it can also be spiritual.

This is where Dolly Parton's Imagination Library comes in. Poverty can be a powerful driving force for self-fulfilment and success.

Stan Labovitch
Windsor, Berkshire

SIR – Dolly Parton gave us wonderful tunes, joyful performances, life-changing philanthropy, triumph over adversity and an inspiring example of marital fidelity.

Added to all this were her magnificent sense of humour and an exquisite talent for self-deprecation. As she quipped: "It costs a lot of money to look this cheap."

Heaven will be full of applause and laughter as she enters.

Charles Simon
Leicester

Burnham's attacks on Israel are dangerously naive

We face unprecedented threats from Russia and Iran – yet Labour is picking a fight with a key ally

CON COUGHLIN

Throughout Andy Burnham's nationwide "listening tour" this past month, our new Prime Minister has been noticeably reticent about addressing the core issues relating to national security.

While he is happy to stay in his political comfort zone, offering his opinions on everything from the cost of living to giving mayors greater powers over local planning decisions, Burnham has been less forthright in addressing vital challenges relating to the defence of the realm.

Defence spending, the future of the transatlantic alliance, Iran, Russia and China are all issues that have a direct bearing on our future wellbeing.

Yet, for the most part, Burnham has steered well clear of making any meaningful comment on these key national security challenges, save for the odd glib remark, such as asking "who started the fire?" when responding to Moscow's criticism of his recent visit to Ukraine.

As for the very real threats the nation faces – such as the recent Iranian cyber attack that knocked out a UK power station – or concerns that Vladimir Putin is planning to attack Nato, the Prime Minister has kept shtum.

The revelation, then, that Burnham, in one of his first major foreign policy initiatives since entering Downing Street, is planning to impose a ban on trade with Israeli settlements in the West Bank bears all the hallmarks of the type of empty gesture politics normally reserved for university campuses.

The only constituency likely to applaud such a move would be those hard-Left Labour MPs who believe our national interest is best served by supporting Islamist death cults such as Hamas and Hezbollah. Of far greater concern would be the questions raised about Burnham's judgment and his ability to provide decisive leadership on the world stage if he genuinely believes the UK would benefit from indulging in a gratuitous attack on a key Middle East ally like Israel.

Indications that Burnham was preparing to adopt a more confrontational policy towards Israel than his predecessor, Sir Keir Starmer, became evident earlier this month when Ed Miliband, our virtue-signally Foreign Secretary, revealed he was considering fresh sanctions against the Jewish state over its settlement plans. His threat prompted a sharp response from Israel, which accused him of "patronising" conduct.

Apart from the fact that Burnham's plan to sanction Israeli settlements is unworkable – it is virtually impossible to identify goods and produce emanating specifically from settlements – it is hard to imagine a less opportune moment for Britain to pick a fight with Israel.

As if the Iranian attack on a UK power station were not sufficient proof of Tehran's hostile intent, the Trump administration's plan to cripple the Iranian economy – and therefore the regime – with a fresh round of economic sanctions termed "Operation Economic Outcast" promises to trigger another major escalation in the ongoing confrontation between the ayatollahs and the West, one that could have a direct bearing on our own national security concerns.

Iran has been accused of plotting assassinations in the UK against dissidents, journalists and Jewish communities. The regime has also paid criminal gangs to target government buildings and threatened to attack British bases used by US forces.

Iran's violent response in the Gulf, where it has repeatedly attacked the national infrastructure of Gulf states that have no involvement in Donald Trump's war against Tehran, shows just how indiscriminate the ayatollahs can be.

The obvious conclusion is that, if Trump persists with his all-encompassing sanctions regime against Iran, Tehran will view the UK as a legitimate target, given its close ties with the US military.

In those circumstances it would be helpful if the UK had access to Israel's considerable intelligence on Iran's military capabilities and extensive terror network. But it is unlikely there will be much intelligence-sharing between Tel Aviv and London so long as Burnham feels this is a good moment to pick a pointless fight with Israel over settlements.

For much of the Iran conflict, the British Government – first under Starmer and now with Burnham – has tried to keep its distance, arguing this was Trump's war of choice.

But it will be difficult to maintain this policy of equivocation if Iran increases its attacks against UK interests, whether they involve more cyber hacks or major terror attacks on British soil.

In this eventuality, Britain will need all the allies it can muster. And, so far as Iran is concerned, there is no better ally than Israel – which is why British intelligence officials have spent the past decade or so developing close intelligence-sharing ties with Mossad to monitor Iran's nuclear and terrorist activities.

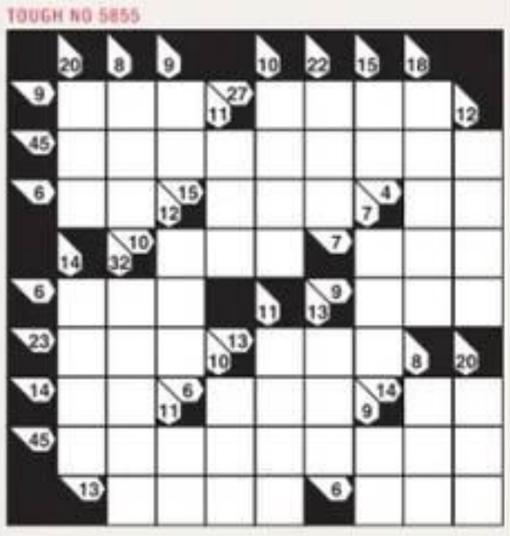
If Britain does find itself involved in a direct confrontation with Iran, then having Israel on side would provide much reassurance. It is a consideration our new Prime Minister would be well-advised to take on board before surrendering to the temptation to indulge in student politics.

Puzzles, Mind Games & Telegraph Toughie

KAKURO

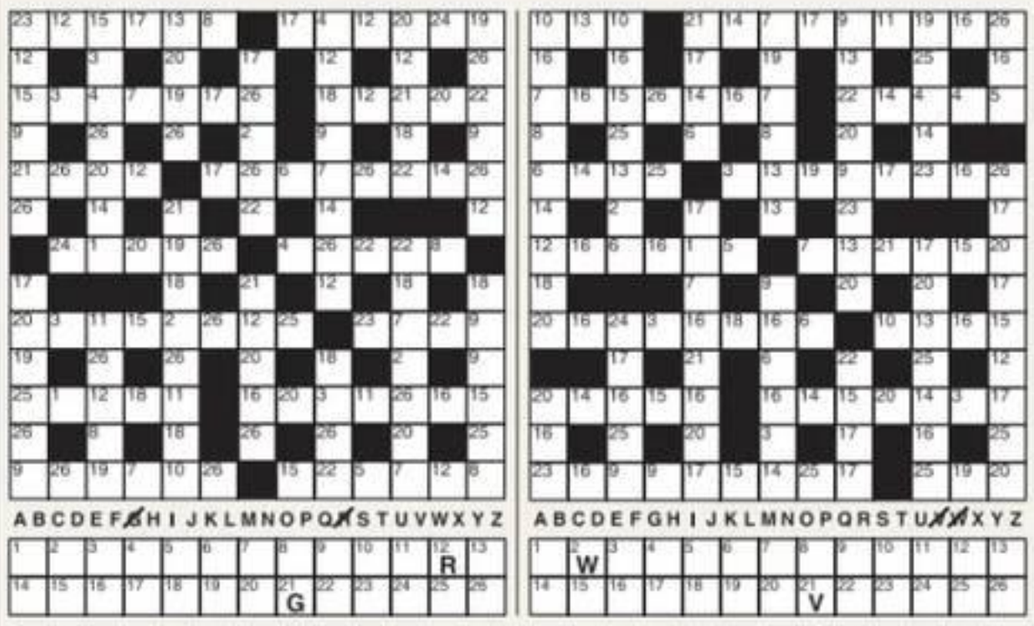
To solve kakuro you must enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares without repeating a digit. The clues are the numbers on the black squares and are the sum of the solution numbers. The clue pointers indicate the direction of the answers. A block of two squares with a clue of 3 will solve as 2,1 and a 5 will produce 4,1 or 2,3. A 4 can only be 1,3, never 2,2. *Solution tomorrow.*

TOUGH NO 5855



CODEWORDS

Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. In the smaller key grid some letters are solved. Use these as clues to complete your first word. This will solve more letters that you can then enter in the grids. *Solutions tomorrow.*

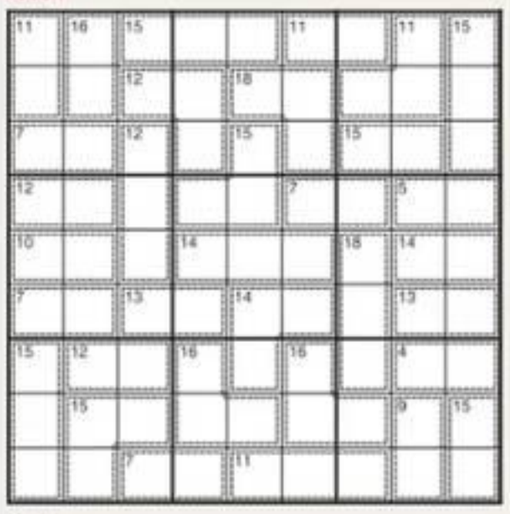


For today's **right-hand** codewords solutions call **0905 757 0131.** For up to five extra letter clues call **0905 757 0130** or text **DTCODE** (leaving no spaces) to **64343.** Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge; texts cost £1, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon - Fri, SP: Spoke Ltd – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

KILLER SUDOKU

Your clues are the caged numbers that represent the sum of the numbers within the cage. As in standard sudoku, each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. *Solution tomorrow.*

TOUGH



SUDOKU

To solve this puzzle each 3 x 3 box, each row and also each column must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9. There are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. *Solutions tomorrow.*

REGULAR NO 7425

	3	1	4		9			
	7				8		9	
5				2			8	
						9		6
		9	6		3	4		
6		8						
	6			9				7
	8		1				4	
			2		7	8	1	

TOUGH NO 7425

		6	8	3	5		7	
3	1			9			6	5
		7						
		4		2				
9								
				6		4		
						1		
8	5			4			9	7
	4		7	5	9	6		

Sudoku Solution For today's tough sudoku solution call **0905 757 0136.** Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon – Fri, SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.

ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spells out a term related to sailing. *Solution tomorrow.*

WARY DUNE - - - - - - - - -

BOT RADARS - - - - - - - - -

AGE OLD SIN - - - - - - - - -

MIND GYM

NO 4917

Start on the left with the given number and work your way across following the instructions in each cell. Target time: 30 seconds. *Solution below.*

BEGINNER									ANSWER
9	x6	TRIPLE IT	-107	+5	X BY ITSELF	+71	HALVE IT	3/4 OF THIS	x1.25	
INTERMEDIATE										ANSWER
105	+15	x11	TRIPLE IT	-75	+13	x7.75	DOUBLE IT	-74	7/8 OF THIS	
ADVANCED										ANSWER
247	9/13 OF THIS	TRIPLE IT	-129	HALVE IT	2/3 OF THIS	x3.75	65% OF THIS	-74	+14	

PANAGRAM

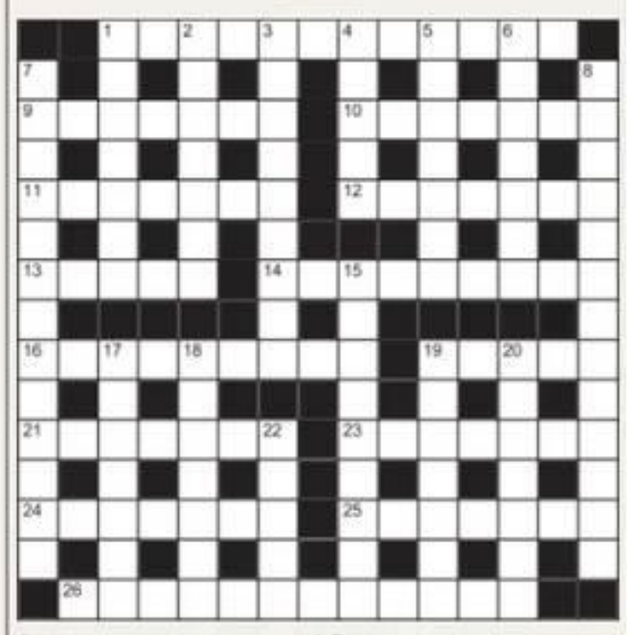
Create words of four letters or more, always using the centre letter. Proper nouns and plurals are not allowed, and you can only use each letter once per word. Can you find the nine-letter Panagram? *Answers must be in the Oxford Dictionary of English. Solution tomorrow.*

Up to 8 words - Word Finder, 9 - Wordsmith, 18 - Word Wizard, 27 - Word Master, 36 - Word Genius, 45 - Word Perfect

TELEGRAPH TOUGHIE

NO 3747

SILVANUS



Across

1 Around ten, sitting by wife, inspiring English philosopher (12)
9 Huge claims backing course run for public speakers (7)
10 Meat's first cut following bishop's blessing (7)
11 Pudding in a firm single mass brought over (7)
12 Vertebrate creature, tame one mostly I trained (7)
13 Crest of bird, piece missing (5)
14 Strong urge to travel in podiatrist's case? (5,4)
16 Hunt down suspect possessing lead to intriguing mystery (9)
19 Joint festered after covering's removed (5)
21 Persuades new Reform UK MP to interrupt opponents (7)
23 Essentially grim struggle facing artist in warm coastal area (7)
24 Permanent police trap in Californian city? (7)
25 Can of Amarillo, so reasonable to purchase in retirement (7)
26 Consort quietly with criminal in bar, Lecter! (6,6)

Down

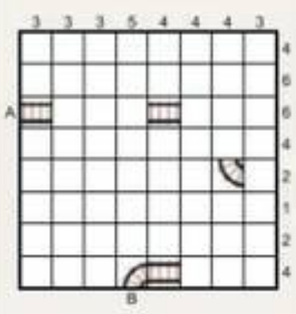
1 Muffled music played originally during midweek (7)
2 Pull up boring character having a pair of shades (3-4)
3 North of Paddington, maybe extremely grandiose development (9)
4 Greek character, graduate touring one ancient Nile region (5)
5 Residence ultimately built above eastern French city (7)
6 Forthcoming about supporting contest Neil regularly mounted (2,5)
7 Studio's features possibly found in Daniel Radcliffe's car? (7,6)
8 Secretly drunk (5,3,5)
15 Cry, react badly over upsetting rule squeezing university (9)
17 Comparatively dull-witted Serb out rambling (7)
18 Fervent manner of female quitting work (7)
19 Hurtful broadcast twin oddly put out (7)
20 Revolutionary delicatessen keen to accommodate Middle-Eastern diet (7)
22 Follow on after Nottinghamshire's No, 11, say, discontented umpire (5)

Toughie No 3746

Help with clues
Single clues 0905 757 0126.
All Across/Down clues 0905 757 0127. Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Service open Mon-Fri, SP: Spoke Ltd – Helpline 0333 2023390.

TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down tracks to allow a train to travel from A to B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row. *Solution tomorrow.*



MINI SUDOKU

Fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column and every 2 x 3 box contains the numbers 1-6. *Solution tomorrow.*

MODERATE NO 4686

	1				
6				1	
2			6		
		3			
	2				6
			5	4	

PLUSWORD

NO 1558

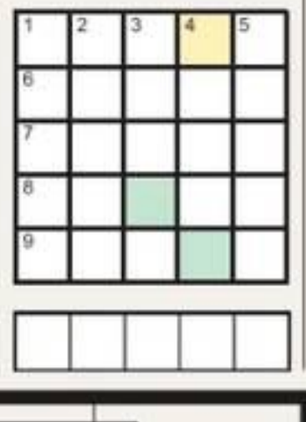
Solve the crossword, then use letters in the shaded squares to complete the additional PlusWord. A letter in a green square appears in the same column in the PlusWord as it does in the crossword; a letter in a yellow square appears in the PlusWord, but in a different column than it does in the crossword.
There is only one possible answer for the PlusWord; it may be that the PlusWord contains letters that aren't found in the crossword, but it can always be worked out logically without guessing.
Solution tomorrow.

Across

1 Attempts; attacks
6 Kind of fortune-telling card
7 *The Barber of Seville*, e.g.
8 Unimportant
9 Mischievous joke

Down

1 Put one's foot down heavily
2 Hoofed mammal; part I (anag.)
3 Sphere of action
4 Element number five
5 Severe; karst (anag.)



WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word. Each step must be a valid word and you cannot change the order of the letters. There are clues below for each rung, but they are not necessarily in order. *Solution tomorrow.*

SLIP, TERRA FIRMA, OMIT, PUT DOWN, TRACK, MENTIONED

The Telegraph PUZZLES

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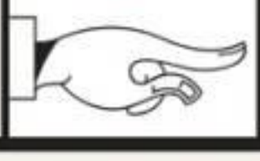


THE SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's solutions

Sudoku Regular and Tough No 7424

9	1	6	2	7	5	8	3	4
3	2	8	9	6	4	5	1	7
5	7	4	3	8	1	6	2	9
1	4	3	5	9	7	2	8	6
2	5	7	8	1	6	4	9	3
8	6	9	4	3	2	1	7	5
4	9	1	7	5	8	3	6	2
7	8	2	6	4	3	9	5	1
6	3	5	1	2	9	7	4	8

4	8	1	5	2	6	9	7	3
9	3	2	1	8	7	6	4	5
6	7	5	4	9	3	2	8	1
5	1	9	8	3	2	4	6	7
7	2	8	6	4	1	3	5	9
3	4	6	7	5	9	8	1	2
1	6	3	9	7	4	5	2	8
8	9	4	2	1	5	7	3	6
2	5	7	3	6	8	1	9	4

Word Ladder: Star, sear, seam, team, tram, trap, trip.

Anagrams: 1. Trajectory 2. Zero gravity 3. Lunar module.

Panagram: Flagrancy, angary, farang, gnarly, langar, langra, raglan, angry, argan, clang, gayal, glary, gnarl, grana, gyral, lagan, lagar, nagar, rangy, yagna, agal, agar, alga, cagy, crag, fang, flag, frag, gala, gran, gray, gyan, naga, raga, rang, yang.

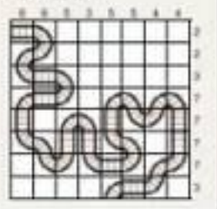
Today's Mind Gym
Beginner: 90 **Intermediate:** 98 **Advanced:** 17

PlusWord No 1557

C	A	J	U	N
O	V	I	N	E
L	A	N	C	E
D	I	G	U	P
S	L	O	T	S

Eject

Train Tracks



Killer Sudoku

3	2	5	4	9	6	8	7	1
4	1	7	3	5	8	2	9	6
9	6	8	7	2	1	4	3	5
6	4	2	1	8	9	7	5	3
1	5	3	2	7	4	9	6	8
8	7	9	5	6	3	1	2	4
7	3	1	6	4	2	5	8	9
2	8	6	9	1	5	3	4	7
5	9	4	8	3	7	6	1	2

Mini Sudoku No 4685

2	3	5	4	6	1
6	4	1	5	2	3
3	1	4	6	5	2
5	6	2	1	3	4
4	2	6	3	1	5
1	5	3	2	4	6

Codewords 1 and 2

K	M	J	T	L	B	A	G	H	Z	P	F	T		O	V	N	Q	D	I	X	W	E	S	R	U	C

M	X	A	C	J	B	N	G	I	Q	T	P	K		Z	F	L	V	H	W	D	Y	S	R	U	E	O

Kakuro No 5854

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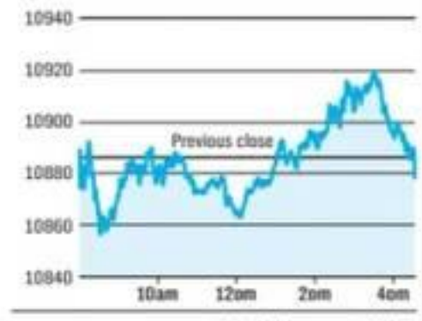
Business

MARKETS

FTSE 100



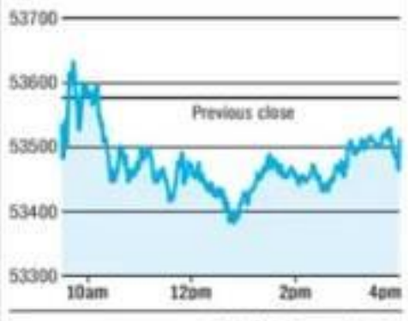
10878.12
-8.04 (-0.07pc)

52WkHigh	10980.45	
52WkLow	9107.40	
Yield	3.03pc	0.00
P/E Ratio	14.90	0.02

BIGGEST RISER
JD Sports Fash
87⅞p
-2½ (-3.00pc)

BIGGEST FALLER
The Sage Grp
1063p
-41½ (-3.76pc)

DOW JONES



53463.88
-113.52 (-0.21pc)

52WkHigh	54744.33
52WkLow	44948.16

FTSE 250	24897.84	+41.79 (+0.17pc)
FTSE All Share	5866.59	-2.70 (-0.05pc)
FTSE All Share Yield	3.04	No Change
FTSE Eurotop 100	5073.84	-1.05 (-0.02pc)
Nikkei 225	66262.16	+405.73 (+0.62pc)
EURO STOXX 50	6470.74	+15.11 (+0.23pc)
S&P 500	7675.70	-1.58 (-0.02pc)
Nasdaq	26130.20	-21.10 (-0.08pc)

Page 22

CURRENCIES

£$
Rate
1.3588
Change
-0.45c

£€
Rate
1.1668
Change
-0.14c

Page 22

COMMODITIES

GOLD
$4591.42
(£3379)
-71.75 (-1.54pc)

BRENT CRUDE
$87.84
(October)
-0.74 (-0.84pc)

Page 22

Intemperate climate
Drought, floods and wildfires are just some of the ways extreme weather affects millions of homes

Page 23

Bitcoining it in
Cryptocurrencies might be volatile, but some now see them as preferable to US government debt
Tom Stevenson

Page 21

Wealth firms ditch Octopus tax scheme

Investment fund faces growing scrutiny as pensioners are banned from pulling their cash out

By **Tom Saunders**

OCTOPUS'S inheritance tax scheme has been ditched by a string of leading wealth managers amid growing scrutiny over the fund's performance.

St James's Place (SJP), Fairstone Group and Openwork Partnership, which advise millions of customers, have all stopped recommending the Octopus Inheritance Tax Service (OITS).

OITS, a subsidiary of Octopus Group, has raised money from 18,000 pensioners with the promise of lowering their inheritance tax bills by investing in businesses to qualify for relief.

However, the scheme has been plagued with uncertainty in recent weeks after it was frozen to redemptions and pensioners were banned from withdrawing their cash.

Octopus has also faced growing scrutiny about its transparency after *The Telegraph* revealed that savers had been bankrolling failed hospitals and care homes. This raised questions over whether pensioners had been given adequate information about the performance of their investments.

In a sign of growing scepticism about the fund's performance, SJP stopped recommending OITS to its numerous clients last year.

Two other advisers, Fairstone Group and Openwork Partnership, also dropped the fund from its panel of business relief investments in October and May respectively.

Thousands of investors have been unable to withdraw their savings from the fund since last month.

Advisers were told on July 9 that OITS withdrawal requests would be paused for "approximately one week".

It told financial advisers that this was because its trading subsidiary was in the throes of a takeover deal which would change the value of savers' investments.

Advisers were then informed that the pause would continue for a further six to eight weeks.

After *The Telegraph* revealed that the scheme had been suspended, Octopus updated its website to inform investors and the public that the scheme had been temporarily paused.

Sources familiar with Octopus's thinking said that the pause had been extended because of the transaction's complexity.

Some investors have become increasingly concerned about the extent of the suspension, during which the value of their investments has dropped.

It is understood that Octopus has communicated extensively with customers that have outstanding withdrawal requests, including offering direct phone calls with affected individuals. It has also conducted a webinar for advisers and clients to explain the ongoing pause and the reasons for it.

SJP's decision to suspend the scheme was first reported by Citywire.

Kristy Barr, the head of retail investments at Octopus Investments, said: "We are currently progressing a potential transaction involving part of the Octopus Inheritance Tax Service portfolio which, if completed, could be an important positive step for investors and the long-term outlook for the portfolio.

"The transaction could have a material impact on value, but the ongoing complex and dynamic nature of the discussions means it is not currently possible to determine the valuation impact accurately. Put simply, we don't believe it would be fair for some investors to buy or sell at a price that doesn't reflect the true value of what they hold."

SJP, Fairstone Group and Openwork Partnership declined to comment.

OTIS customers were sold shares in Fern Trading, which owns about 300 energy, property and telecoms companies. These businesses were the main selling point for investors. However, Fern also lent investors' cash to struggling businesses separately owned by Octopus Group without explicitly telling the investors where the money was going. A number of these investments turned sour, with Fern and the pensioners that backed it ultimately taking over the businesses.

Bill Gates: ban AI from taking some jobs from humans

By **Hans van Leeuwen**

ROBOTS and AI should be banned from taking some human jobs, Bill Gates has said.

The billionaire founder of Microsoft called for parts of the labour market to be marked as "human reserved", either to shield workers from lay-offs or because humans would do the work better.

The philanthropist also said businesses should be taxed on their use of AI software and robotics, similar to a payroll tax on human workers, to slow the rush to replace people with machines.

In an essay on his concerns about AI development, Mr Gates warned politicians were not prepared for the coming wave of economic and social disruption from the technology.

He wrote: "Even under the best circumstances, the transition to this new AI era will be one of the most turbulent times in human history. Unfortunately... I don't see evidence that leaders, experts and communities are confronting the challenges adequately."

Mr Gates, who is worth more than $100bn (£74bn), said the issue was too important to be left to the tech companies to sort out themselves.

He said he planned to lobby for action "before unemployment rises sharply".

His proposals included barring AI from certain jobs. These could include roles as caregivers, teachers or medical workers.

He added that some roles could be set aside as "human reserved" for economic reasons. The billionaire said he expected swathes of white-collar roles to be affected by AI, but that blue-collar factory jobs would be lost too.

"Many Americans I talk to don't realise how fast dexterous robots are advancing," he said, a trend that is being driven by China.

YUI MOK/PA

On patrol Louise Sandher-Jones, the Armed Forces minister, meets British troops wearing multi-spectral ghillie suits that are designed to hide the wearers from detection. The visit happened at Tapa Camp in Estonia where UK Forward Land Forces are taking part in Nato's Operation Cabrit.

Shadow bank boss accused of £1.3bn fraud had been bankrupt

By **Tom Saunders**

THE boss of a collapsed British shadow bank accused of £1.3bn fraud had been declared bankrupt shortly before he launched the company, it has emerged.

Paresh Raja, who led mortgage lender Market Financial Solutions (MFS), was made bankrupt over a £350,000 debt just a year before the business started.

He has been accused of "plundering" MFS to fund a lavish lifestyle that included buying "a vast number of cars", including six Ferraris, three Aston Martins, three Rolls-Royces and two Mercedes.

The collapse of MFS this year triggered shock waves across the City. The lender, an intermediary which used borrowed bank money, had been bankrolled by leading financial institutions including Barclays. There are now questions about why Mr Raja's bankruptcy was not picked up by the banks before they started lending to him. Mr Raja, who is thought to reside in Dubai and denies all the allegations, is subject to a £1.3bn global freezing order on his assets.

It emerged yesterday that shortly before MFS was founded, the 59-year-old had been made bankrupt by the High Court and banned from launching new companies until 2009.

Despite this, MFS was established a year later in 2006. Pratibha Dewan, Mr Raja's future wife, was listed as the founder of MFS, countering previous assumptions that he had founded the business.

Paresh Dabasia, a creditor to the company, said he had discovered that Mr Raja was previously bankrupt with a simple phone call – raising questions over whether banks had done enough due diligence.

"I picked up the phone to the Insolvency Service and had the details in four minutes. It cost me nothing but as far as I can tell, not one bank lending into this business ever made that call," he told *The Times*, which first reported the news.

"That is a colossal failure. We call on the Financial Conduct Authority to immediately investigate what went wrong and how it should be put right."

MFS fell into administration in February, triggering allegations that at least £1.3bn has been "misappropriated" from the business.

The company described itself as a specialist provider of buy-to-let mortgage lending and bridging finance.

It was also a shadow bank, which means it funded its loans by borrowing from banks and other lenders.

Mr Raja and his wife allegedly received more than £408m from "funds managed by MFS" into "personal bank accounts" in the UK, Monaco, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

The allegations have been made in a lawsuit on behalf of some of the shadow bank's creditors, which include Barclays, Santander, Wells Fargo and Jefferies.

Mr Raja strongly denies the allegations and has consistently maintained that there was no fraud or dishonesty.

As well as lending money to the collapsed shadow bank, Barclays also provided bank accounts to MFS and most of its associated lending vehicles.

Representatives for Mr Raja were contacted for comment. Barclays declined to comment. Lawyers acting for Mr Dabasia were also contacted for comment.

Smart meter installations blamed for leaks

By **Patrick Galbraith**

BOTCHED installations of thousands of smart water meters are causing leaks and flooding across London.

Smart water meters, which have been hailed as a crucial tool for cutting water usage, have caused almost 2,500 leaks for Thames Water customers in the past five years, figures from the company suggest.

Defective smart meters were thought to be responsible for about 30 of the incidents, with faulty installations causing the rest. While some of the leaks have been minor, others have caused flooding in homes.

Some customers have waited weeks for incidents to be resolved. Thames Water has paid out more than £250,000 since 2023 in compensation to affected householders and business owners.

The leaks raise questions about the speed of the smart meter rollout, with more than 200,000 fitted across London and its surrounding regions in the past 12 months.

Smart meters measure households' exact water usage, with the data provided to suppliers. The meters can also transmit readings to customers' phones.

Utility companies argue the devices can provide more accurate bills and help detect leaks. However, installations have proved controversial, amid fears the devices will pave the way for surge pricing and penalties for breaching hosepipe bans.

Thames Water increased its bills by 40pc last year. They stand at £639 a year on average. Thames Water was contacted for comment.

Burnham: I want wealth creators to stay in UK

By **Szu Ping Chan**

ANDY BURNHAM has called on wealth creators to back Britain as the Prime Minister said he was focused on cutting the cost of doing business.

Seeking to allay fears of another Budget tax raid, Mr Burnham yesterday insisted he was focused on taking the "pressure off" households and businesses even as he described the fiscal backdrop as "challenging".

In an interview with the *Financial Times*, Mr Burnham insisted he backed entrepreneurs and business owners. He said: "Of course, we need wealth creation and the best wealth creators not just forging their path here, but staying here."

Asked whether he would tax the wealthy out of Britain, the former Manchester mayor said: "No, definitely not."

The Prime Minister also delivered his clearest signal yet that he would authorise more drilling in the North Sea.

He said Labour's approach to net zero should be "pragmatic", hinting that the approach set out by Dale Vince, the net zero tycoon, was the right one. The Ecotricity boss and Labour donor has described Britain's reliance on fossil fuels as "a reality" for the next few decades, adding: "If we approach things differently, we can actually make sense of drilling the North Sea."

Mr Burnham said he was focused on growing the economy by "percentage points" and is expected to set out his vision in a statement next week. John Healey, the Chancellor, will also deliver a keynote speech on the economy at the beginning of September.

ALBERTO SAIZ / PA

Painting the town red Revellers enjoy La Tomatina, a fiesta in the village of Bunol, near Valencia, in which the participants throw squashed tomatoes at each other. More than 20,000 people attended the 79th edition of the festival which has been described as "the biggest food fight in the world".

UK vehicle production hit by fall in exports

By **Telegraph Reporter**

A FALL in exports of cars has led to fewer vehicles being produced, figures have shown.

There were 63,655 vehicles built last month, a fall of 11pc compared with in July last year, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). Car production fell by 10.6pc while commercial vehicle output declined by 34.4pc.

There was a near 16pc fall in exports to 47,377 vehicles, as well as earlier scheduling of routine summer maintenance shutdowns at some plants, said the SMMT.

Exports to all major markets were down, including the EU (-15.2pc), the US (-17.7pc), Turkey (-18.5pc), China (-36.9pc) and Japan (-24.4pc).

Production of fully electric and hybrid models recorded the first monthly increase of the year, up 6.8pc to 25,678 units.

Electrified models accounted for more than four in 10 cars built in July, up from about three in 10 a year ago.

Mike Hawes, the SMMT chief executive, said: "July's figures underline the intense pressure under which UK vehicle manufacturers are operating.

"Although the negative performance is exacerbated by shutdowns and model changeovers, it is being compounded by weaker overseas demand and fierce global competition. Long-term success depends on making the UK a more competitive place to make and sell vehicles."

The SMMT's data shows that electric vehicle sales jumped in July, driven by high petrol prices, manufacturer discounts and government incentives.

Battery electric vehicle sales rose 44.5pc year-on-year to a record 43,106 to capture 27.5pc of the market, up from 21.3pc a year ago.

'Worse to come' warning, as energy bills rise

Families should brace for further 9pc increase in January if the Iran war continues, say experts

By **Chris Price** *and* **Dominic Penna**

HOUSEHOLDS have been warned there is "worse to come" on energy bills after Ofgem raised its price cap to a three-year high.

Yesterday, the regulator announced that typical annual household gas and electricity prices will rise by £60 from October.

The 4pc increase follows a 13pc jump in July, as the Iran war pushed up global oil and gas prices.

Analysts at Cornwall Insight, the energy consultancy, said there is no relief in sight for households in January, should the conflict in the Middle East continue. It said a further 9pc rise should be expected in the new year, putting an average January bill up to £1,872 a year, £149 higher than the prices coming into effect from October.

The forecast underlines the challenges faced by Andy Burnham, as he stakes his reputation on lowering the cost of living.

The Prime Minister yesterday said he recognised rising energy bills were "difficult" for people, adding the Government had decided to remove VAT from electricity bills to "give people that little bit of help".

Speaking to reporters from a supermarket in London, Mr Burnham said: "We know the price cap will have an impact, but it is what we can do right now. We'll continue to look as we go forward at how we get energy prices down in the long term, and that's what we need to do too."

However, the latest increase to the price cap effectively wipes out the £45 reduction from Mr Burnham's VAT cut.

Miatta Fahnbulleh, the Energy Secretary, hinted yesterday that there could be more action from ministers "to protect families from unaffordable bills", with the Budget due to be held on Oct 8.

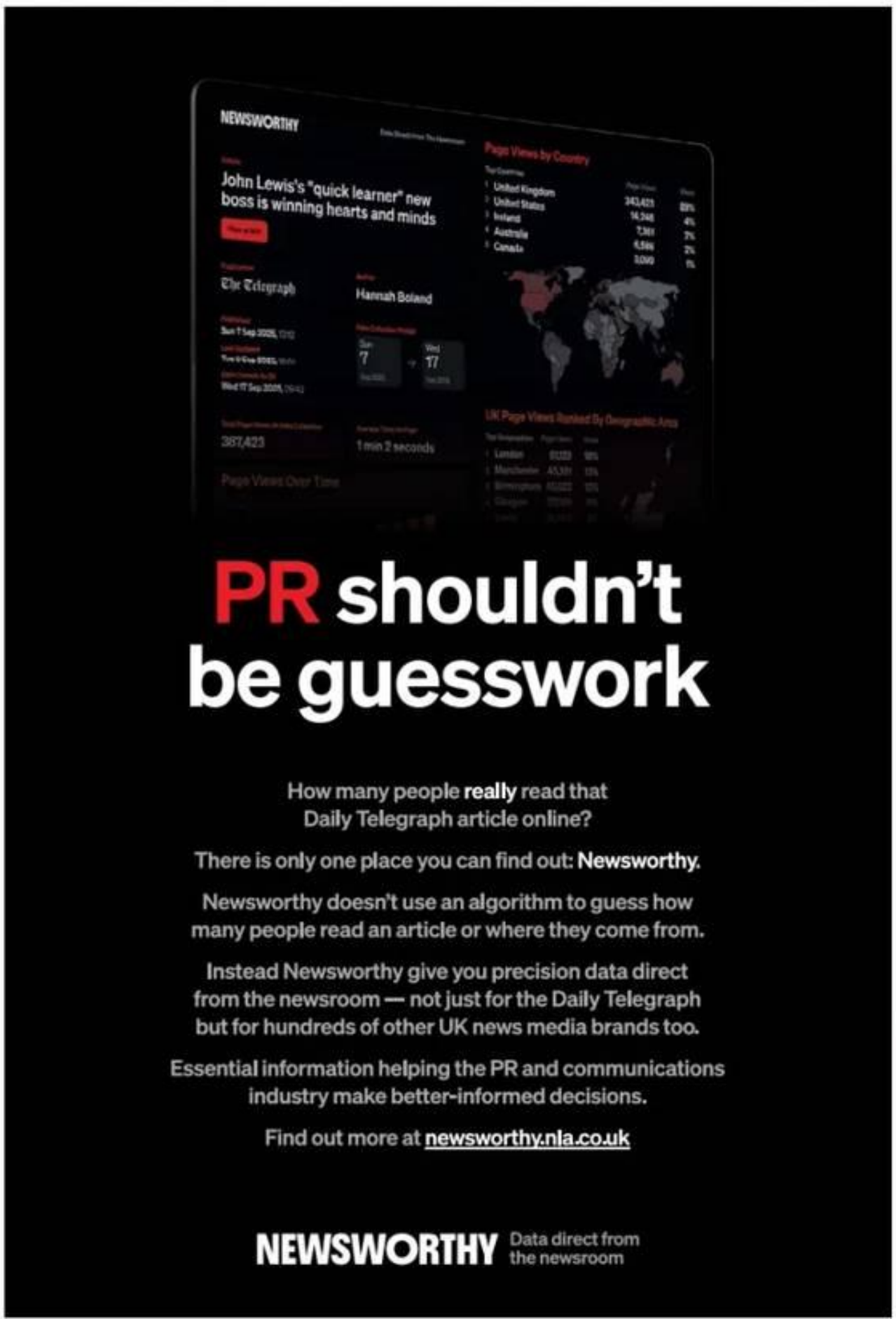
Commenting on the price cap, Craig Lowrey, of Cornwall Insight, said that there was a risk of "more hardship" by January.

"Where January bills land will depend on whether the situation in the Middle East calms down in the next couple of months."

He added that low European gas stocks heading into the winter meant bills were unlikely to fall.

Elsewhere Ms Fahnbulleh appeared to suggest that investment in net zero projects was contributing to higher household bills. Asked on LBC if the rise in bills could not solely be blamed on the Middle East conflict, but also on political choices to pay for renewable subsidies, she replied: "Well, no, so it is both." However, she later insisted it was "simply not true" that net zero was adding to bills, when questioned by Sky News.

Earlier this week, Boston Consulting Group warned that household electricity bills will increase by more than £260 over the next decade because of mounting net zero costs. The consultancy said that high prices are driving down electricity consumption, making renewable subsidies and grid upgrades an increasing proportion of power bills. If electricity demand continues to fall, the average household electricity bill will rise by £264 by 2030 to hit £1,145 because of a spike in net zero spending.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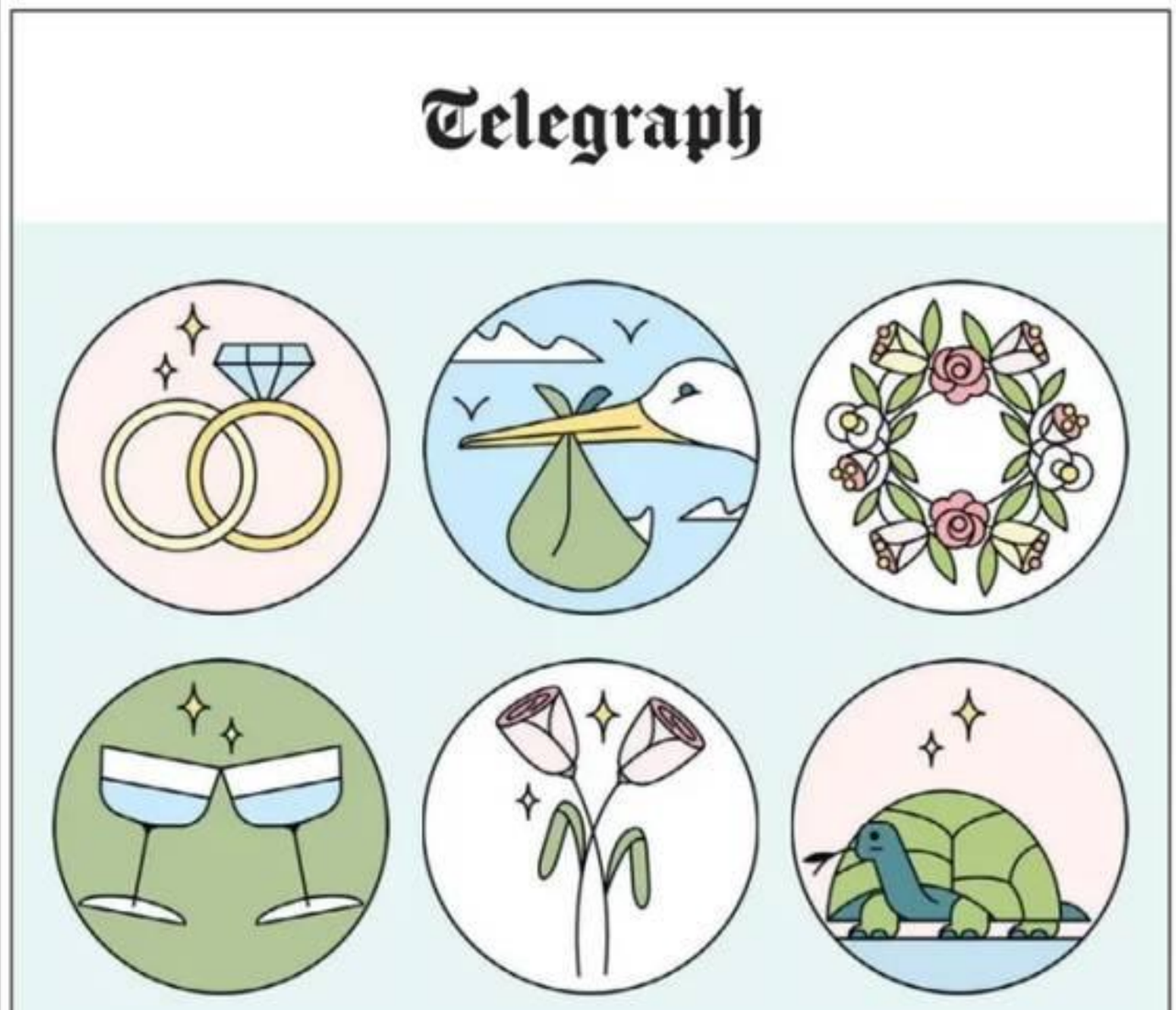
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The Chinese copycat 'Range Rovers' taking over UK roads

Low-cost 'Temu' vehicles are threatening to dominate the 4x4 market, writes *Christoper Jasper*

OVERTAKEN by a Range Rover in a hurry or startled by a Land Rover the size of a small tank? Take another look, because that luxury 4x4 may in fact be nothing of the sort.

A fleet of Chinese invaders has started to flood Britain's roads over the last 18 months, and their numbers are far larger than most people imagine.

Copycat Chinese designs of popular models from Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) have become so convincing that, to the uninitiated, there is little to differentiate the bona fide icons from the imported lookalikes costing half the price.

Dubbed "Temu Range Rovers" for their bargain-basement prices, the Asian influx has opened up a new world of motoring possibilities for drivers who put space and comfort ahead of brand. And there are plenty of people taking up the offer.

Jaecoo, which is owned by Chinese automotive giant Chery, has spearheaded the insurgency in Britain.

Its £30,000 Jaecoo 7, a copycat of the Range Rover's pricier Velar and Evoque models, leapt to the top of the sales charts in March with more than 10,000 purchases – a figure that outperformed its nearest rival by 70pc. The model, launched in January last year, has been in the UK top 10 for 12 months, but to see it crowned as Britain's best-selling car came as a shock to the motoring world.

Yet the Jaecoo 7 is just the tip of the iceberg as China pushes to ape JLR's line-up of luxury SUVs.

The Jaecoo 8, which commenced deliveries to British consumers last month, has "more than a hint of Range Rover Sport", *Autotrader* noted in a recent review.

BYD, China's largest carmaker, is also getting in on the act.

The company's Ti7 vehicle was shown off at the British Motor Show last week, and it's a dead ringer for Land Rover's reinvented Defender.

There's also the colossal Zeekr 9X from Geely Group, designed by Bentley's former design chief and startlingly similar to the top-of-the-range Range Rover. Currently on sale on the Continent, it is also destined for Britain.

The imitation game is nothing new in the automotive industry.

Toyota's MR2 was nicknamed the "Baby Ferrari" both for its resemblance to the Italian supercar and ability to hit 60mph in as little as five seconds, yet cost a fraction of the money.

China has also attempted to produce dozens of copycat Range Rovers and Land Rovers before.

The Landwind X7, a virtual clone of the Evoque by former Chinese carmaker Landwind, was blocked by a Chinese court and JLR was awarded compensation after it was deemed to be too close to the original.

However, what is different now is the boom in sales that the Chinese models are enjoying.

For JLR, which is still trying to bounce back from a crippling cyber attack last year, there are question marks over whether it can withstand the copycats. The group, owned by India's Tata, has said it would not rule out legal action to protect its designs and engineering.

This is despite the group enjoying a longstanding joint venture with Jaecoo owner Chery, which is planning to produce an electric version of the defunct Land Rover Freelander.

A spokesman said: "Competition, alliances and partnerships are strongest when driven by respect for intellectual property rights. JLR is assessing its options."

At the same time, JLR has played down the potential for its own sales being directly compromised by Chinese vehicles.

It argues that they offer an alternative to "crossover" SUVs such as the Nissan Qashqai, Hyundai Tucson and Kia Sportage. The Evoque, by contrast, is priced from £45,000 and the Velar from £55,000.

And while the Jaecoo 8 can be had for £45,000, the starting point for the Range Rover Sport is £77,000 and the top-end flagship model some £101,000.

While there may be some interest in Jaecoo models from drivers who use an Evoque for the school run, industry observers said JLR's high prices help insulate it from the Chinese raiders.

One said: "If you're wealthy with the money for a full-fat Range Rover, why would you go out and buy a Jaecoo?

"The real sweet spot is the family of four who can get all the space they need at the price point of a decent VW Golf.

"You can lease one for under £300 a month, possibly at zero interest and with a charger fitted for free. The customer service is good. And the spec is the spec. You're not paying extra for heated seats or a satnav because there isn't that much optionality."

Jaecoo claims its sales success is based as much on technology as looks, helping the brand to attract large numbers of first-time car buyers and young families. So-called "Super-Hybrid" variants can cover 56 miles on a single charge "so that 99.9pc of the time you are never left lugging around an empty battery", a spokesman said.

The firm has also established a dealership network of 124 British outlets and offers a seven-year, 100,000-mile warranty.

Reviewers, however, have been underwhelmed by the handling characteristics of its cars.

The Telegraph's review said the Jaecoo 7 had "tricky" throttle control, "disconnected" steering and "unsophisticated" suspension – making driving "tiring and rather unpleasant".

Jaecoo plans to hold a gathering of customers next month to celebrate 100,000 sales, including sister-brand Omoda, which launched two years ago.

Further milestones are likely to be set this month, with the Jaecoo 7 and smaller Jaecoo 5 currently occupying second and third place in the sales chart, behind only the Ford Puma.

The company is also learning to live with the Temu comparison.

"I wouldn't use the term myself," said a source. "But if people find our cars a bargain offering the features, technology, safety and economy of far more premium price point products, that's something we'll stand behind."

A JLR insider said that for most of its clientele, however, a cheap Chinese copy simply would not cut it.

They said: "People who buy Range Rover care about the badge, the heritage, the world-class engineering and who it has been designed by.

"It's the attention to detail, which not all new Chinese cars have. When they pull up at the traffic lights or a pub car park in the Cotswolds, would their friends go wow, or raise an eyebrow and ask, 'What's that?'"

Quiz Identify the car

Answers: Range Rover Evoque 1 and 4, Jaecoo 2 and 3

10,000

Sales achieved by the Jaecoo 7 in March – 70pc more than its nearest rival that month

Business rates tsar called for £9bn tax cut for high streets

By **Tom Haynes**

ANDY BURNHAM's new business rates adviser has called for up to £9bn of tax cuts for high street shops.

Jerry Schurder, who is reviewing rates for pubs and hotels, argued in a 2019 submission to the Treasury select committee that business rates had become an "increasingly excessive burden".

Mr Schurder, the former head of business rates at property consultancy Gerald Eve, said the business rates multiplier – a figure used to calculate businesses' property tax – should be cut by about a third for all companies.

He admitted that a reduction of such a "magnitude" would have cost the Treasury between £8bn and £9bn a year. Mr Schurder, who was writing in his capacity at Gerald Eve at the time, said the policy could be paid for through tax rises elsewhere. This included a suggestion to levy business rates on agricultural land and buildings, a move that Mr Schurder said could raise about £450m a year.

The remaining gap could be filled through new taxes, he argued in the submission to MPs, including the Digital Services Tax, which was introduced by the Conservatives in 2020. The submission gives an insight into the ideas Mr Schurder may put forward in his new role.

Mr Burnham appointed him to lead an independent review of the business rates system for pubs and hotels this week. The Prime Minister has vowed to support these businesses, which faced a sharp rise in their property tax bills at the last re-evaluation.

Jerry Schurder has spent decades arguing for a reform of the business rates system

Mr Schurder has spent decades arguing for fundamental reform of the system, including lowering the tax burden on businesses.

In a LinkedIn post announcing his retirement from Gerald Eve after 46 years earlier this summer, Mr Schurder said he had broken a promise to himself not to retire until business rates had been "fundamentally reformed".

He said the system was in a "far poorer state" than when he first began advocating for change.

Mr Schurder will report his recommendations to the Prime Minister next March, ahead of the next business-rates revaluation in 2029.

Any proposals for a steep reduction in business rates would raise further questions about how Mr Burnham can pay for a growing list of tax and spending commitments.

The Prime Minister has already been accused of making unfunded promises after vowing to remove VAT from household electricity bills. Mr Burnham said he would pay for the policy through savings from the scrapped digital ID scheme.

However, Darren Jones, a former chief secretary to Sir Keir Starmer, said the digital ID scheme was itself unfunded.

Last month, the Prime Minister also announced a £100m-a-year business-rates cut for pubs, clubs and live music venues, to be funded through higher charges on vape shops and tougher VAT enforcement against online sellers.

The Treasury was approached for comment.

Elon Musk set to build $100bn SpaceX rocket base in Louisiana

By **Tom Haynes**

ELON MUSK's SpaceX is to build a $100bn (£73bn) launch complex in Louisiana as it races to expand its capacity for Starship rocket missions.

The 125,000-acre site at Pecan Island, a remote area of coastal marshland, will become the company's largest launch facility with construction set to begin next year and the first launch planned for 2029.

Gwynne Shotwell, SpaceX's president, said the facility would eventually support thousands of Starship flights each year, carrying missions to Earth's orbit, the Moon and Mars.

The site will be built as a "self-sustaining" spaceport with its own fuel production, power generation, vehicle processing facilities and deep-water shipping capabilities. An airport is also expected to be built.

The announcement came just weeks after SpaceX went public with a $1.8tn valuation in the largest stock market debut in history.

SpaceX said the project would create more than 3,000 jobs in the region, while Louisiana Economic Development estimated it could generate a further 8,100 jobs indirectly. Jeff Landry, the governor of Louisiana, hailed the project as an "inflection point" for the state, saying it would combine economic development with efforts to protect the region's vulnerable coastline.

The project is more than eight times the size of Manhattan and will expand SpaceX's launch operations beyond its primary Starbase facility in southern Texas, as well as existing sites in Florida and California.

> 'I would never have dreamed in a hundred years they'd be launching rockets from Pecan Island'

The announcement was met with unease from some residents of Pecan Island, a small community of fishermen, crabbers and hunters.

Jerry Lege, a Pecan Island resident, told local broadcaster KPLC: "I would have never dreamed in a hundred years they'd be launching rockets from Pecan Island. Come on. You'd have told me that a year ago, I'd say, you're crazy."

Melicia Broussard, another resident, said: "We had no say in it. No warning. The hush-hush was horrible."

The concerns echo opposition that has surrounded SpaceX's existing Starbase operation in Boca Chica, Texas, where residents have complained about noise, environmental damage and disruption.

SpaceX said its project would protect the Louisiana shoreline from coastal erosion and retain areas of wetland that serve as a habitat for waterfowl.

Mr Landry has sought to reassure locals, arguing that the development will bring permanent employment to an area that has struggled to retain young people. Susan Bourgeois, Louisiana's economic development secretary, said the area would receive about $850m across 25 years through payments linked to the project.

SpaceX is expanding aggressively as it seeks to turn its 400ft Starship rocket into the backbone of its launch operations, with the aim of launching a network of in-space data centres.

Its stock market flotation in June was the biggest ever, valuing it at $1.8tn. SpaceX's shares peaked at $225.64 per share shortly after floating and have since lost nearly 40pc of their value.

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Setting sail from Casablanca, we have the joy of a relaxing day at sea before we arrive in Lisbon where you can visit the magnificent Fronteira Palace with its remarkable collection of seventeenth-century azulejos. Alternatively you may venture inland to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Evora, where Roman, Medieval and Renaissance monuments reflect more than two thousand years of history, before sampling the renowned wines of the Alentejo. Continuing north, we arrive in Oporto, famed for its riverside setting, Baroque architecture and centuries-old wine traditions. Next is the Spanish region of Galicia we will explore some of the region's finest historic houses and gardens, sample local wines and visit the great pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela. After a busy few days of exploration, we have a relaxing day at sea before our call in the Isles of Scilly where we hope to visit traffic-free Tresco and its famous subtropical Abbey Gardens, as well as the small island community of St Martin's. Our final call is the Cornish port of Falmouth from where we will visit the exotic woodland valley garden of Glendurgan before we sail along the River Fal and on to Portsmouth.

THE ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 1 London to Casablanca, Morocco. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. On arrival transfer to the MS Hebridean Sky and embark.

Day 2 At Sea. Spend the day on board as we cruise to Portugal.

Day 3 Lisbon, Portugal. Set on seven hills on the banks of the River Tagus, Lisbon has been the capital of Portugal since the 13th century and is a city famous for its majestic architecture, Moorish features and more than twenty centuries of history. Our guided morning tour will visit the beautiful Fronteira Palace located in the heart of the city. Built in 1670 the palace holds the largest collection of seventeenth-century 'azulejos' (Portuguese tiles) preserved in situ and is classified as a national monument. The palace is surrounded by a romantic garden, whilst at the Galeria das Artes we see an extraordinary tile decoration on the surrounding walls. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon to explore further at your own pace. Alternatively, there will be a full day tour to the Alentejo region. We will drive to Evora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and explore the sights and Medieval history of this enchanting city during a walking tour. Alentejo is a highly respected wine region traditionally producing red wines from the Tempranillo and Trincadeira grapes and we will enjoy lunch in a vineyard including a tasting.

Day 4 Oporto. After a leisurely morning at sea we will arrive in Oporto, Portugal's second largest city and a World Heritage Site. On an afternoon tour we will drive through the city's narrow streets to find 16th century arcaded buildings, Baroque churches and chapels, as well as the city's iconic 19th century iron bridge. See the city's cathedral, located on the top of Penaventosa Hill with an amazing view over the river before some free time to stroll and explore the riverfront promenade of Cais da Ribeira. Alternatively, visit Quinta de Villar d'Allen, the last living example of the 19th century bourgeoisie properties near Oporto. The house has been in the Allen family for more than 180 years following the family's involvement in the port and wine industry. We can view the historical artefacts in the house as well as exploring the tranquil gardens.

Day 5 Vilagarcia de Arousa, Spain. Arrive in Galicia this morning from where we have a choice of excursions. There will be a half day tour to some of the wonderful houses and gardens of the Galicia region. Visit the Pazo de Oca, a Baroque stately home with beautiful gardens before we continue to Pazo de Ribadulla which dates from the 16th century and is set in a wonderful location on the shores of the Ulla Valley. The garden here was developed by the Armada family in the 1870s and is today renowned for its outstanding collection of camellia trees, giant magnolias, olive trees and liriodendrons. Return to the vessel for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. Alternatively enjoy a full day discovery of 'Rias Baixas' which translates as low estuaries. Visit the 15th century Pazo de Rubianes, one of the three official lordships in Spain. Visit the 11 hectare garden and a nearby cellar to learn about local wine production and enjoy a tasting. After a tapas lunch we will drive to El Grove and board a catamaran for a journey along the estuary towards the bateas, the floating docks used for mussel farming. Learn about the local industry before enjoying some freshly harvested mussels on the way back to the vessel.

Day 6 La Coruna for Santiago de Compostela. From our berth in La Coruna our full day tour will visit Santiago de Compostela, the capital of the autonomous community of Galicia. The city's cathedral is the destination of the important Medieval pilgrimage route, the Way of St James (in Spanish the 'Camino de Santiago'), which is still walked today. For those keen to walk some of the route there will be the chance to hike a short section towards Santiago. Otherwise, we will transfer directly to the site where we will visit the Conventual de San Francisco, the Faculty of Medicine and the world famous Plaza del Obradoiro. Inside the cathedral, we will visit the Romanesque crypt and see the facade of Platerias, the Quintana Plaza, House of Parra, the facade of Azabacheria, and the facade of San Martin Pinario. Enjoy lunch at a Parador before returning to the ship. Alternatively you can join a morning tour of La Coruna which will include a drive along the promenade stopping at the Tower of Hercules. We will then explore the old city before returning to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure.

Day 7 At Sea. Spend a relaxing day at sea as we cross the Bay of Biscay and sail towards the English coast.

Day 8 Isles of Scilly, England. Arrive this morning in the Isles of Scilly, an archipelago of five inhabited islands and around 140 uninhabited islets, located 30 miles off the coast of Cornwall. Our day will depend on weather and sea conditions. From our anchorage we will use the local tenders to visit traffic-free Tresco, walking along its idyllic lanes from the beach to the famous subtropical Abbey Gardens. Defying the Atlantic weather, this miracle of a garden is home to more than 20,000 species of plants from over 80 countries. Later we hope to visit the northernmost island of the group, St Martin's, a small island community of just 120 residents where there will be time to explore independently.

Day 9 Falmouth. Over breakfast we sail into Cornwall and the historic port of Falmouth. A morning tour will head to Glendurgan for a tour of the subtropical woodland gardens created by the Fox family in the early 1800s. Three valleys can be explored at their springtime best with thousands of wildflowers carpeting the slopes amid displays of camellias and rhododendrons. Alternatively, spend the morning exploring Falmouth independently. In the early afternoon we will depart for a scenic cruise along the River Fal before continuing our journey to Portsmouth.

Day 10 Portsmouth. Disembark this morning after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station and our departure London airport at a fixed time.

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Bessent's bond moves may not be so misguided

IZABELLA KAMINSKA

What started as a panic about the credibility of US debt markets is a lesson on the power of reflexivity

GEORGE SOROS famously warned that even the best investors can be undone by the unexpected consequences, and feedback loops, associated with their own actions.

As he told US lawmakers over 30 years ago: "Financial markets cannot possibly discount the future correctly because they do not merely discount the future; they help to shape it."

You would have thought that when two of Soros' best known proteges, US treasury secretary Scott Bessent and hedge fund billionaire Stanley Druckenmiller, spar publicly over the consequences of bond market interventions, the media and investors would pay heed to such insight.

The evidence, however, suggests not. The hysteria surrounding Bessent's interventions in the bond market, and before that in the yen market, hints that nobody is looking beyond the usual first order effects.

The superficial take is appealing: spiking 30 year bond yields imply America's creditors are losing patience with its enormous debt burden and Bessent, rather than listening to the warning, is only doubling down by trying to suppress the spike.

Reinforcing this narrative has been a consistent slew of criticism from a pantheon of world famous investors, most notably Druckenmiller — Bessent's former boss and mentor, when both worked with Soros.

Critics like Druckenmiller say that Bessent has no business trying to overpower the market. He will only delay, not prevent, this reckoning.

But there is another way of looking at what is happening, related to the second order effects that are still to be felt. In this telling, Bessent is not wrong-headedly trying to manipulate markets but is in fact trying to fix a market distorted by passive investment and quantitative easing.

Michael Green, a veteran investor who has spent years studying the distortions created by passive investment, points out that the expanded buyback programme everyone is worrying about hasn't even officially started yet. That begins on Sept 9.

Markets can anticipate flows, of course, but what we have witnessed so far is positioning ahead of an intervention, not the intervention itself. There is a difference, not least because of how passive flows influence the market structure.

Second, it is important to look at how Bessent is intervening. At the centre of the drama is something called a Treasury buyback. This involves the US treasury using short-term funds in order to buy back longer-term debt.

The buyback programme he is now expanding was launched by Janet Yellen in 2024, primarily as a way of improving liquidity in older Treasury securities. What has changed under Bessent is the scale and emphasis, with a focus particularly at the long end of the market. Put these two observations together and a compelling thesis starts to emerge. It asserts that modern markets don't work quite the way everyone thinks.

Enormous structural distortions have been festering in the system for years, brewing up a litany of unappreciated second order effects.

The first is the related to the growing role of passive money. Vast pools of savings are no longer invested based on an assessment of whether something looks cheap or expensive. Instead, they follow rules.

In bond indices, those rules can have the peculiar effect of directing more money towards securities with higher market values and less money towards otherwise similar securities whose prices have fallen, and thus have higher yields.

With interest rates rising, the result can become self-reinforcing: the system mechanically favours the expensive bond over the cheap one, even where the underlying cash flows make that difficult to justify. The second distortion is the wreckage left behind by quantitative easing. Banks accumulated vast quantities of low-yielding government bonds when interest rates were close to zero. After rates rose, many of those bonds plunged in price. Banks can continue carrying them to maturity, but selling them means crystallising the loss. So capital has been trapped. In its simplest form, Bessent is offering investors the opportunity voluntarily to sell certain old bonds back while the government refinances elsewhere.

The second order effects come in because if bond prices are being distorted by passive allocation, legacy balance sheets and speculative positioning, then the supposedly fundamental signal arising from elevated bond yields can't necessarily be trusted.

Indeed, the extraordinary hostility to Bessent's intervention becomes information in itself.

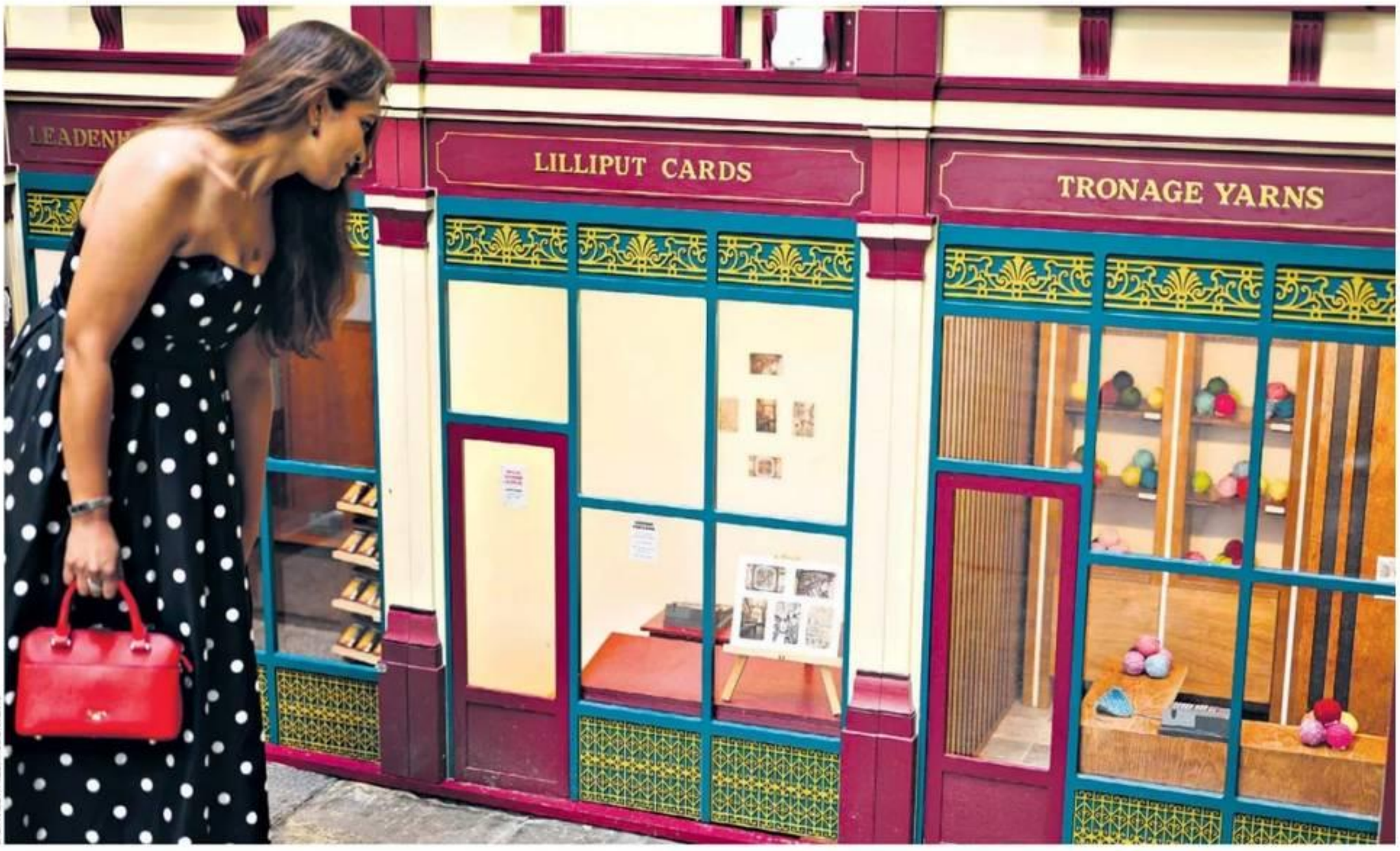
Bond traders are not neutral observers of the market, they have positions. The people most loudly explaining why Treasury cannot possibly succeed may also be among those with the greatest financial interest in yields remaining high.

If enough investors have positioned themselves for ever-higher long-term yields, and the structural flow suddenly begins moving against them, they eventually have to buy bonds back. That pushes bond prices higher and yields lower, forcing others to follow. At that point a market supposedly suffering from insufficient demand could discover it has rather a lot of pent-up demand after all.

If that process coincides with lower short-term rates under Federal Reserve chairman Kevin Warsh, the consequences become potentially much larger. The yield curve could flatten and financial conditions ease without treasury having to overpower the market indefinitely.

Bessent cannot manufacture that outcome by decree, but he may be trying to prod the market towards it. If he ends up being right then a sour position could turn sweet very quickly – much to the distress of bond traders who have positioned their portfolios for the opposite effect and totally discounted reflexivity.

Mini mart
The City of London's Leadenhall Market has a new attraction with the opening of Wunderkammer, an installation of miniature shops. The trio includes a tiny wool boutique, a mouse-sized video store and limited-edition card retailer.



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Why Bitcoin has joined gold in becoming a must-have for investors – despite the risks

TOM STEVENSON

Their simultaneous rise reflects an increasingly cautious view of conventional assets

BITCOIN and gold were the worst-performing investments in a balanced portfolio in the first six months of 2026. However, since the start of the summer, they have been the best. Bitcoin has risen from $60,000 (£44,000) to near $80,000 since July. It jumped by 20pc last week alone. Gold, meanwhile, has risen by 15pc in August.

This is odd. Gold is the archetypal safe haven. Bitcoin is a high-octane speculative asset. So why are they suddenly moving together? They are very different assets, albeit with some shared characteristics, but recently they have both responded in the same way to the same underlying anxiety: an erosion of confidence in US policymaking and the twin pillars of the global financial system: the dollar and US treasury bonds.

Both remain well off their recent highs, so part of this is just recovery from a weak second quarter. But their performance is in stark contrast to a summer of drift for shares and bonds. There is more to this than a rebound.

The issues underpinning this latest flight to alternative investments are not new: the fiscal trajectory of the US and other developed economies, the uncontrolled deficits and an unwillingness to cut spending or pay for it with higher taxes have been around for years.

Investors were happy to park those fears while they succumbed to the siren call of AI. The cooling of that story helps explain the resurgence of gold and bitcoin. The hot money chasing the AI picks-and-shovels trade in the spring is now looking for a new home.

But there are other reasons why they should have picked up some of the slack. Falling real interest rates are part of it. Neither asset pays an income, and rising real rates reduce their appeal.

A depreciating dollar has helped too. Gold has historically tended to move inversely to the US currency, and the latest bout of dollar weakness has reinforced the debasement trade.

Fiscal anxiety has also ratcheted up over the summer, as Scott Bessent's increasingly inventive interventions to support treasuries have reminded investors that a peacetime government with a wartime debt burden is one that cannot live with persistently higher borrowing costs. Just two decades ago, the US national debt stood at $6tn (£4.4tn). Today it is $40tn, four times as high after adjusting for inflation.

Governments that won't spend less and can't tax more have limited options: it is hard for them to avoid the temptation to let inflation run hot while leaning against the rise in borrowing costs. It reduces the real burden of their debts. It is catnip to a gold bug.

The fourth reason not to be surprised by gold's rise is geopolitics. Shifting the fight to the economic front again is a tacit admission that the military option has been exhausted in the Gulf. There are no simple solutions anymore, which adds a safe-haven argument to the monetary and fiscal ones.

Finally, central banks continue to use gold to diversify their reserves away from freezable dollars. They bought nearly 300 tons of gold in the second quarter, adding to years of heavy government purchases of the metal.

Bitcoin shares some of these same drivers. It benefits from dollar weakness, fears about monetary debasement and a lack of confidence in conventional assets. But it has some unique impetus too.

First, crypto is more accessible than it used to be. Bitcoin exchange-traded funds move the asset class further into the mainstream. Last week saw five consecutive days of inflows.

Then there is a friendlier regulatory backdrop. Washington is moving toward giving crypto a clear legal rulebook. That reduces the risk that governments can make owning or trading it prohibitively difficult. A good old-fashioned short squeeze has been the icing on the cake.

What is most interesting about this summer's surprise winners is not that gold and bitcoin have risen, but that they have both surged at the same time. They usually behave differently, but they do share a common characteristic.

Neither is a claim on a company or a government. A share requires a company to make a profit. A bond needs a borrower to repay you. A bank deposit is someone else's liability. Gold and bitcoin are different. Their simultaneous rise reflects investors' increasingly cautious view of conventional assets.

US government debt held by the public is likely, by the end of the decade, to exceed the 106pc of GDP reached at the end of the Second World War. Inflation has been above the Fed's target for five years, long-bond yields are pushing ever higher and the Treasury is bearing down on the long end of the yield curve.

You don't have to be a cynic to view this as a move to fiscal dominance – interest rate and tax policy working together to accommodate a government that cannot comfortably refinance itself at high real interest rates. The market is assuming that if the Treasury wants to keep yields down, it will have to significantly increase the size of its interventions. The Fed may have to join in too, keeping interest rates lower than they should be. It is the primrose path to debasement.

A combination of loose fiscal and monetary policy is a one-way street for the dollar and a tailwind for both gold and bitcoin. It is not hard to see why investors should be prepared to pay more for assets whose value is not dependent on the willingness or ability of an indebted government to repay the kindness of strangers.

There are risks in holding both gold and bitcoin – in terms of opportunity cost and volatility. But increasingly these look preferable to the risks of not holding at least some of them in your portfolio.

Tom Stevenson is an investment director at Fidelity International. The views are his own.

Savers warned merging pensions ahead of tax raid could backfire

By **Rob White**

LABOUR'S inheritance tax raid is pushing pension savers into costly mistakes that could wipe five-figure sums off their retirements, wealth planners have warned.

Pensions will be assessed for inheritance tax from next April under plans introduced by Rachel Reeves, the former chancellor.

The policy has led to a rise in people tracking down workplace pensions and combining them into one pot to ease the administrative burden on their loved ones after their death, advisers said.

However, experts warned that while this would aid grieving relatives, it could prove a "costly and irreversible mistake".

Alasdair Walker, of wealth planner Optimum Path, said it could force people to work longer and pay decades of higher fees, while Andy King, of Evelyn Partners, said it wasn't the right decision for every pension saver.

Under Ms Reeves's changes, which begin in April next year, an additional 10,500 estates will be forced to pay inheritance tax each year and a further 38,500 will be hit with increased bills.

Bereaved loved ones will also have to track down every pension belonging to the deceased, before calculating and paying any inheritance tax due.

However, Mr Walker said there were "compelling reasons" not to consolidate.

He said: "You could be paying higher fees for 20 years or more. Some people could give up products with guaranteed annuity rates, potentially leaving them with less in retirement.

"Others might lose the right to access their funds at 55, pushing their retirement back two years when the Government raises the minimum pension age to 57 in 2028.

"These irreversible choices could potentially cost tens of thousands of pounds throughout retirement."

Mr King said pension consolidation inquiries had risen since the inheritance tax changes were announced, but it wasn't the right option for everyone.

He said: "Consolidation could mean losing out on beneficial features like a protected lower retirement age, enhanced tax-free cash and beneficial features like guaranteed annuity and growth rates. There's also the possibility that your pension provider could get into difficulty and your investments could of course go down at any time."

The Telegraph reported earlier this month that families could be hit with unexpected inheritance tax bills years after an estate was settled because executors and beneficiaries could inadvertently miss some pension pots during

> 'These irreversible choices could potentially cost tens of thousands of pounds throughout retirement'

their search. The estate would then need to be recalculated, increasing the inheritance tax bill.

However, some experts were also concerned that those who decided to consolidate could be hit with delays. Becky O'Connor, of PensionBee, said the pension transfer process was a "provider lottery" that affected thousands of people a year.

She said: "If more people are looking to consolidate ahead of the change next year, the burden on providers could increase, causing delays. Someone could have their financial affairs in perfect order, only to find their pension is stuck in transit when the rules change."

The Treasury was contacted for comment.

Separately, workers who defer their state pension will not benefit from an income tax exemption despite Labour's pledge to spare retirees from tax bills.

The state pension could rise by more than £500 next year, pushing it beyond the tax-free personal allowance of £12,570 for the first time.

Ms Reeves confirmed last year that anyone who lived on the state pension alone would not be forced to pay tax, but the pledge will shield just one in 17 pensioners from income tax. However, the exemption would not apply to those who opt to defer their state pension.

Sir Steve Webb, a former pensions minister and now at consultant LCP, said it was a "tax penalty" that could cost people who wanted to continue working "hundreds of pounds".

According to Royal London, almost 42,000 people claimed a deferred state pension in 2023-24 and one in four had delayed for five years or more. Deferring boosts a claimant's payout by 1pc for every nine weeks they postpone, or just under 5.8pc a year.

Under Ms Reeves's changes, someone who deferred for one year and claimed in April 2027 could be hit with an additional tax bill of up to £560.

Markets

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Government securities

52 week High	52 week Low (£)	Stock	Price (£)	+/-	Flat Yield	Rdm Yield
107.15	103.38	Treas 6% 28	103.74	-0.05	5.78	4.26
107.33	0.01	Treas 4¼% 32	98.18	-0.09	4.33	4.61
99.39	92.65	Treas 4¼% 36	94.08*	-0.12	4.52	5.04
102.00	93.84	Treas 4¼% 58	95.36	-0.15	4.98	5.27

Index Linked Securities

349.26	338.55	Treas 4½% IL 30	341.77	-0.82	1.21	0.97
248.27	236.46	Treas 2% IL 35	241.73	-0.54	0.83	1.76

10-year Government Bonds

	Yield%	Spread Vs Bunds	Spread Vs T-Bonds
France	3.96	+0.73	-0.70
Germany	3.23	-	-1.43
Japan	2.87	-0.36	-1.79
Great Britain	5.03	+1.80	+0.37
United States	4.66	+1.43	-

The share prices, price-earnings ratios and dividend yields below are supplied by Interactive Data (Europe) Ltd. The yields are calculated using historic dividend payments divided by the closing share price multiplied by 100.

Aerospace & defence +0.32%

52 week High	52 week Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
1527	902¼	Babcock Intl	1085½*	-7	0.7	25.8
2360	1529	BAE Systems	2088	-18	1.8	30.3
578½	398½	QinetiQ ●	518	-8	2.1	25.8
1586	930	Rolls-Royce	1543*	+13	0.7	77.2
318½	161	Senior ●	294	–	0.7	288.2

Banks +0.75%

554½	302½	Barclays	489½*	+3½	2.3	11.4
598½	338½	Close Bros ●	420	-6	–	6.3
1010	942½	HSBC	1022½*	+6½	3.8	17.1
157½	77½	Lloyds Bk Gp	121½*	+½	3.8	16.0
726	503½	NatWest Group	692*	+1½	5.1	12.9
1122	699	Santander	1090	+16	1.3	14.0
2778	1301½	Standard Ch	2182*	+42	2.3	15.2

Beverages +0.06%

2118	1295½	Diageo	1738½	+1	2.1	30.2

Chemicals +0.57%

3120½	2432	Croda Intl	3465	-6	3.2	78.0
3245½	2224	Johnson Mat ●	2286*	-28	4.3	29.7
841	565	Victrex ●	830	-1	7.2	25.6

Construction +0.72%

973	575½	Balfour Beatty ●	888	-3½	1.6	16.9
1181½	2305½	Barratt Redrow	382½	+1½	5.3	23.7
4442	2798	Berkeley Grp ●	3830	–	–	10.9
257	132½	Bovis H	154½	+5½	5.1	8.8
241	134½	Costain ●	232½	+5½	2.2	16.7
1062½	788½	Grafton Gp ●	1050	+22½	3.6	14.9
5730	3915	Morgan Sindall ●	4440	+20	3.7	11.9
1592	947½	Persimmon	1295½	+21½	5.0	11.5
188½	74½	Taylor Wimpey ●	85½	+½	4.8	30.6

Electricals +1.10%

570	190	Dialight	540	-2	–	–
840	505	discoverIE Grp ●	851	+20	1.6	26.5
4902	3234	Halma	3916	+40	0.7	36.7
5490	3110	Renishaw ●	5130	+50	1.5	44.4
3360	843	XP Power ●	1802	-10	–	-42.9

Electricity -0.07%

937½	832½	Drax Group ●	756½	-½	4.0	36.5
1428½	1000	Nat Grid	1182½	-3	4.1	18.1
2102½	1587	SSE	2436*	+7	2.8	22.9

Engineering / Industrial +0.64%

98½	73½	Costain Group ●	85½	+½	3.0	18.8
450	230	Cropper J	430	+26	–	15.6
28300	9292½	Goodwin ●	10240	+600	1.5	55.8
3164	2236	IMI	3128*	+28	1.1	25.2
1078½	660	Morgan Advanced ●	864½*	+22½	1.4	27.0
40	25½	Severfield	28½	+½	–	8.3
2754½	2088	Smiths Gp	2627	+18	1.8	30.7
8050	5850	Spirax Gp	7055	+45	2.4	32.5
3580	2254	Weir	2900	+18	1.5	30.3

Food producers +0.40%

2358	1729½	Ass Brit Fds	2079	+13	3.0	14.7
5195	3270	Coca-Cola HBC	4658	+34	2.2	21.6
5810	4775	Cranswick ●	5280*	-30	2.1	18.2
842½	447½	Hilton Food ●	821	-2	5.6	7.1
138	92	REA Hldgs	109	-2	–	211.6
5542½	3644	Unilever	4772*	+30½	3.5	12.9

Gas & Water -0.11%

259½	150½	Centrica	154½*	-¼	3.7	102.2
606	438½	Pennon Gp ●	470*	-2	6.2	24.5
3335	2381	Severn Trent	3150	-2	4.8	25.5
1497	1072	Utd Utilities	1436	–	3.7	16.7

General financial -0.40%

276½	145½	Ashmore ●	222½	-3½	7.6	18.3
351½	212	Bridgepoint Grp ●	314½	-4½	3.8	63.0
1865	1240	BrookMacdonald	1440	-35	5.7	11.1
1358	1035	IG Group	1302*	-17	3.1	9.6
2540	1436½	ICG	2012	-6	4.3	12.1
690	498½	Investec	638½*	+4	6.0	8.3
75	48	IP Group ●	72½	+½	1.8	10.0
3	½	Ixora Hldgs $	3	–	3.4	74.0

Europeans +0.30%

67½	46½	Aluv Nederl €	63½	+½	3.2	2.3
97½	56½	BMW €	57½	-½	7.6	2.7
17½	12	Cornelius €	16	–	7.4	1.6
77½	52½	Continental AG €	70½	+½	2.8	0.3
62½	42½	Daimler €	44½	-½	7.8	2.9
80½	60½	Danone €	65½	+½	3.4	1.2
58½	37	Deutsche Post €	56½	–	3.2	1.6
34½	23½	Deutsche Tele €	28½	-½	3.5	2.9
80½	62½	Heineken €	72½	+½	2.6	2.4
654½	440	LVMH €	462½	-3½	2.9	1.7
82½	60½	Lafarge Holcim SFr	73½	+2½	2.3	1.9
10½	8½	Lufthansa €	8	+½	4.1	9.0
15	3½	Nokia OYJ €	8½	-½	1.6	0.8
35½	25½	Michelin €	35½	+½	3.3	1.7
107½	58½	Pernod Ricard €	67½	+½	7.0	1.4
27½	25½	Philips (Kon) €	25½	-½	2.7	0.6
298½	198	Siemens €	288½	-2½	1.9	2.0
84½	50½	Societe Gen €	74½	-½	2.3	3.9
10½	4½	Stellantis €	6½	–	15.2	1.1
278½	212½	Thales €	268½	-½	1.6	2.1
83½	48½	Total €	75½	-½	4.6	2.1
44½	28½	UBS AG SFr	43½	+½	2.0	2.3
37½	27½	Veolia Environ €	33½	-½	4.4	0.3
110½	71	Volkswagen €	73½	-1½	7.1	2.6

Recent issues

52 week High	52 week Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
190	140	Bravura Solutions	162½*	-1	8.2	12.3
300	125	Coastal Africa Group	300	–	–	–
5½	3½	Mondi Helium	5	–	–	4.5

Media -1.09%

52 week High	52 week Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
628½	418½	Autotrader	539½	-10	2.2	15.8
890	426	Bloomsbury ●	647	-8	2.5	18.3
1000	719	Informa	892½*	-6	2.5	–
87½	65½	ITV ●	72	-¼	6.8	12.2
1237	814½	Pearson	1217½*	+2	2.1	23.7
74	40½	Reach	43*	–	13.7	1.0
2575	1990	RELX	2546*	-32	2.7	25.0
775½	392½	Rightmove ●	569	-9½	2.1	18.1
412½	258½	WPP ●	381½	-10½	3.9	7.8

Mining -0.48%

4290	2585	Anglo Amer	4229*	+17	0.7	57.3
4475	2115	Antofagasta	4329	+33	1.4	40.6
3588	1958	BHP Group	3535	-37	3.6	24.8
81	81	Evraz ♦	81	–	–	0.3
4472	1693	Fresnillo	3229*	-50	3.6	22.6
707½	391½	Glencore	598½	-2½	2.1	–
958	246½	Hochschild Mng ●	698	+22½	1.9	23.0
330	178½	Kenmare Res	197	-7	–	-0.7
9117	4528	Rio Tinto	7722*	-8	4.4	17.1

Oil & Gas -0.68%

609½	299½	BP	522½*	-6½	4.7	–
28	9½	EnQuest	26½	-¼	3.3	–
550	300	Hunting ●	488	+8	2.5	20.7
3758½	2553½	Shell	3333*	-18½	4.5	15.1

Pharmaceuticals -1.45%

15732	9892	AstraZeneca	12234*	-242	2.0	35.2
3239½	1943	Genus ●	2300	-2	1.4	78.5
2552	1440½	GSK	1899½*	-6	3.7	13.3
1845	1187	Hikma ●	1640*	–	3.9	12.2

Property +0.99%

16	8½	Alina Hldgs	11	+½	–	17
1208	800½	Big Yellow Gp ●	1107½	-4½	5.3	–
452½	318½	Brit Land	430½	-½	5.4	–
2198	1468½	Derwent Lon ●	2064	+4	4.0	–
377	270	Gt Portland Est ●	347½	-2	2.4	–
208	149½	Grainger ●	175½	-½	4.8	6.4
360½	262½	Hammerson ●	329½	+½	4.8	–
997½	602	Segro	972*	+3	3.2	–
155½	124½	Shaftesbury Capital ●	150½	-1½	2.8	8.1
139	104	Town Centre	137	+4	2.9	–
175	132½	Tritax Big Box	160½*	–	5.1	184

Retailers +0.12%

168½	108	Currys ●	148½	-1	2.0	6.6
1248	707	Dunelm ●	891½	+25½	1.9	11.5
842½	588	Frasers Group ●	835	+7½	–	5.8
2046	1407½	Greggs ●	1872	-18	3.7	15.6
258	123½	Halfords ●	240*	+2½	3.7	15.9
881	713	Howden Joinery	825	+28½	2.7	16.7
106½	64	JD Sports Fash	87½	+2½	1.4	10.2
372½	240½	Kingfisher	322½	+½	3.8	23.1
438½	301½	Marks & Spen	394½	+3½	1.1	31.0
1¼	¾	Mothercare	¾	–	–	-0.8
15000	11200	Next	13655	+28	1.7	20.6
356½	140½	Ocado ●	269½	+3	–	5.3
575	350	Pinewood Tech	450	–	–	92.8
747	192½	Sage ●	688	+9	–	–
380½	292½	Sainsbury J	333½	-1½	4.1	15.3
728½	378½	Smith WH ●	428½	-6½	–	-3.8
516½	413½	Tesco	468½	-4½	3.1	16.7

Support services -0.61%

2598	1981	Bunzl	2286	-8	2.7	15.8
438	255	Capita	282	-8½	–	2.0
6740	4180	DCC Energy	6370	+10	3.4	–
223½	78½	Essentra	130½	+½	1.9	–
3982	2203	Experian	2962	-42	1.7	34.5
5890	3519½	Intertek Group	5845	-5	2.8	25.8
2501½	1623½	Int'l Workplace ●	1821½	-2½	0.6	–
172½	123½	Johnson Serv ●	146½	+½	3.3	15.7
254	134½	MITIE Gp ●	209*	+½	2.2	31.7
507	329½	Rentokil	345½*	-2½	2.7	25.2
335½	222½	Serco Group ●	260½	+½	1.8	18.1
12	6½	SIG	9	+½	–	-1.8
723½	483½	Travis P ●	658	-8½	1.7	-7.9

Telecommunications -0.49%

242½	172	BT Group	202*	-1½	4.1	18.8
1304	638	Telecom Plus ●	1160*	–	5.8	8.5
135½	83½	Vodafone	117½	-¾	3.4	63.4

Tobacco +2.36%

5226	3677	Brit Am Tob	4238	+100	5.8	12.1
3632	2476	Imp Brands	2598*	+28	6.5	10.2

Transport -0.75%

490	294½	ZIGUP ●	462½	-3½	5.9	13.7

Travel & Leisure +0.19%

683½	332½	easyJet ●	672½	-2½	2.0	10.2
955½	560½	Entain	1305½*	-8½	3.8	6.1
227½	132½	FirstGroup ●	179½	+½	4.0	8.4
776	550	Fullers W	754	+4	2.8	19.2
492½	332½	IAG Intl Cons Air	442½	+½	1.5	7.2
13305	8568	Intercont Hotels	12363*	+186½	1.2	33.4
302½	223½	Mitchells&But ●	287½	-2½	–	9.7
35½	17	Mobico Group	19½	+½	–	-1.1
447	250	Playtech ●	399½	-4½	–	1.9
144½	86	Rank Group ●	106½	-1½	3.3	16.7
865	530½	Wetherspoon ●	850	-4½	1.4	14.2

AIM +0.32%

52 week High	52 week Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
89½	36½	Alfentra	76	-1½	–	-71.8
1130	700	Arbuthnot	830	–	6.7	7.5
344	125½	Central Asia Met	180½	+10½	8.5	-5.8
872½	98	Ceres Power ●	403½	-7½	–	-16.4
460	275	Churchill China	370	+5	5.7	8.3
380	194	CML Micro	310	–	3.5	-930.4
3538	882½	Cohort	1298*	+22	1.5	23.3
172	100	Elementis	132	+4½	0.9	82.5
10½	¾	Futura Medical	¾	–	–	-0.1
183½	112	James Halstead	137	-2	6.5	14.1
435	200	Mpac Group	337½	+3	–	10.6
1010	1220	MS Intl	1080*	–	1.5	25.1
67	34½	Premier Miton	38½	-½	7.7	49.7
74	46	Tribal Gp	61	+½	2.1	14.5
1½	¾	Xtract Resources	1	-½	–	-4.2

The Alternative Investment Market is for young and growing companies. Shares may carry higher risks than those with a full quotation, and may be difficult to sell.

Americans +0.01%

52 week High	52 week Low	Stock	Price	+/-	Grs Yld	Cvr
84½	30½	Alcoa $	40½	1½	0.8	9.8
387½	250	Amer Express $	339½	-½	1.1	4.2
65½	46½	BankAmerica $	52½	-½	2.1	3.4
254½	178½	Boeing $	210½	-½	–	–
1072½	403½	Caterpillar $	825	+9½	0.8	3.6
214½	148½	Chevron $	202½	+2½	3.5	1.5
113½	84½	Coca-Cola Euro $	108½	+½	2.2	0.8
95½	74½	Colgate Palm $	92	+½	2.3	1.2
168½	136	ExxonMobil Hldgs $	160½	+½	2.6	1.8
289½	267½	Gen Electric $	282½	+2½	0.5	4.3
426½	289½	Home Depot $	338½	-1½	2.8	1.5
358	180	Honeywell $	298½	+3½	1.3	5.8
32½	17½	HP $	29½	+½	4.0	2.3
122½	108½	IBM $	230	-4½	2.9	1.7
142½	72½	Intel $	85½	-½	–	–
50½	29½	Intl Paper $	41½	+½	4.5	2.9
368½	278½	JP Morgan Ch $	294½	-½	1.7	3.8
276½	172½	Johnson&John $	278½	-2½	2.0	1.6
33½	26½	Keurig Dr Pep $	31½	–	2.9	1.7
63	35½	Manpower $	60½	-½	2.3	1.5
343½	282	McDonalds $	297½	-½	2.8	1.7
156½	77½	Merck $	153½	-2½	2.2	0.4
553½	348½	Microsoft $	483½	-2½	0.7	4.9
28½	23½	Pfizer $	28½	-½	6.1	0.4
167½	137½	Procter & Gamble $	164½	-½	3.0	1.8
226½	150½	Raytheon Tech $	212½	+2	1.4	2.0
497½	232½	Rockwell $	428½	-1½	1.3	1.9
926½	348	Trane Tech $	462½	+6½	0.9	3.1
135½	86½	Wal Mart Strs $	104½	-½	0.8	2.9
159½	92½	Walt Disney $	109½	1½	1.4	3.2

Europeans +0.30%

52 week High	52 week Low	Stock	Price	+/-	Grs Yld	Cvr
67½	46½	Aluv Nederl €	63½	+½	3.2	2.3
97½	56½	BMW €	57½	-½	7.6	2.7
17½	12	Cornelius €	16	–	7.4	1.6
77½	52½	Continental AG €	70½	+½	2.8	0.3
62½	42½	Daimler €	44½	-½	7.8	2.9
80½	60½	Danone €	65½	+½	3.4	1.2
58½	37	Deutsche Post €	56½	–	3.2	1.6
34½	23½	Deutsche Tele €	28½	-½	3.5	2.9
80½	62½	Heineken €	72½	+½	2.6	2.4
654½	440	LVMH €	462½	-3½	2.9	1.7
82½	60½	Lafarge Holcim SFr	73½	+2½	2.3	1.9
10½	8½	Lufthansa €	8	+½	4.1	9.0
15	3½	Nokia OYJ €	8½	-½	1.6	0.8
35½	25½	Michelin €	35½	+½	3.3	1.7
107½	58½	Pernod Ricard €	67½	+½	7.0	1.4
27½	25½	Philips (Kon) €	25½	-½	2.7	0.6
298½	198	Siemens €	288½	-2½	1.9	2.0
84½	50½	Societe Gen €	74½	-½	2.3	3.9
10½	4½	Stellantis €	6½	–	15.2	1.1
278½	212½	Thales €	268½	-½	1.6	2.1
83½	48½	Total €	75½	-½	4.6	2.1
44½	28½	UBS AG SFr	43½	+½	2.0	2.3
37½	27½	Veolia Environ €	33½	-½	4.4	0.3
110½	71	Volkswagen €	73½	-1½	7.1	2.6

Recent issues

52 week High	52 week Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
190	140	Bravura Solutions	162½*	-1	8.2	12.3
300	125	Coastal Africa Group	300	–	–	–
5½	3½	Mondi Helium	5	–	–	4.5

Bold FTSE 100 Stocks ● FTSE 250 Stocks
* Ex-dividend † Ex-scrip ‡ Ex-all
§ Ex-rights # Suspended

Cover relates to the previous year's dividend.
Yields are net of basic rate tax.

Data is provided for information purposes only and is not intended for trading purposes. Speak with a financial advisor before using any data to make transactions.

Winners and losers (pc)

Major price changes FTSE 100

Risers 57	Volume	Close	Change
JD Sports Fash	20.08m	87½	3.00pc
IG Group	1.03m	1393	2.73pc
Brit Amer Tob	2.68m	4238	2.54pc
Howden Joinery	1.38m	820	2.44pc
Standard Chart	3.16m	2182	1.96pc
Persimmon	1.74m	1295½	1.82pc
Diploma	0.30m	7355	1.73pc
Imp Brands	1.57m	2559	1.55pc
Airtel Africa	1.90m	339½	1.49pc
Games Works	0.05m	18800	1.40pc
Coca-Cola HBC	0.67m	4666	1.39pc
Admiral	0.75m	4128	1.38pc
IMI	0.63m	3138	1.16pc
Aberdeen Group	2.64m	249½	1.13pc
Halma	0.90m	3816	1.12pc
Haleon	13.39m	373½	1.00pc
IntContl Hotels	0.45m	12060	0.98pc
Rolls-Royce	17.08m	1543	0.85pc
Marks & Spen	21.38m	394½	0.79pc
Polar CapTech	1.99m	643	0.78pc
Burberry	1.61m	1088	0.74pc
Whitbread	0.57m	2493	0.73pc

Fallers 38	Volume	Close	Change
The Sage Grp	3.89m	1063	-3.76pc
3i	1.90m	2844	-2.07pc
Compass	1.80m	2213½	-2.01pc
AstraZeneca	2.78m	12234	-1.94pc
Autotrader Grp	5.98m	539½	-1.82pc
Entain	7.44m	530½	-1.78pc
Fresnillo	0.58m	3126	-1.57pc
Experian	2.21m	2967	-1.40pc
Lon Stock Ex	1.68m	8688	-1.25pc
RELX	3.69m	2586	-1.22pc
BP	66.29m	522½	-1.12pc
Endeavour Mng	0.61m	4746	-0.98pc
Tesco	7.12m	460½	-0.93pc
BT Group	10.06m	205	-0.72pc
Rentokil Initial	7.44m	345½	-0.75pc
Scot Mort Inv Tst	1.35m	1467	-0.71pc
Babcock Intl	1.42m	1085½	-0.64pc
Informa	2.20m	893½	-0.56pc
Glencore	32.93m	598½	-0.56pc
Convatec	5.24m	227½	-0.52pc
Contrica	13.68m	154½	-0.51pc
BAE Systems	5.43m	2088	-0.48pc

Results Roundup Previously Published * (5)

Company	Turnover(£)	Pre - tax(£)	EPS(p)	DIV(p)	Pay Day	XD
Brave Bison	Int 36.3m (17.8m)	2.1m (104k)	2.200 (0.220)	n/a (n/a)	-	-
Capital $*	Int 219.0m (159.2m)	32.9m (22.5m)	10.100 (7.600)	5.300 (5.300)	Oct 05	Aug 28
Central Asia Metals $	Int 145.5m (90.5m)	58.3m (35.6m)	22.120 (5.330)	8.000 (4.500)	Oct 22	Sep 24
Chesnara*	Int 250.9m (136.0m)	62.0m (-4.6m)	0.220 (-7.140)	8.160 (7.700)	Oct 16	Sep 03
Empresaria Group	Int 117.7m (117.8m)	3.1m (100k)	0.400 (-3.100)	n/a (n/a)	-	-
Faron Pharmaceuticals €	Int - (-)	-8.5m (-10.3m)	-6.000 (-16.000)	n/a (n/a)	-	-
Global Opportunities Trust*	Int - (-)	1.3m (1.3m)	3.900 (4.000)	n/a (n/a)	-	-
Hochschild Mining $	Int $44.4m ($20.0m)	365.8m (140.1m)	37.000 (18.000)	4.000 (1.000)	Oct 02	Sep 03
Hunting $*	Int 497.0m ($29.6m)	34.2m (30.6m)	15.900 (12.800)	7.000 (6.800)	Oct 30	Oct 01
Temple Bar Investment Trust*	Int - (-)	24.7m (24.5m)	7.900 (8.200)	3.900 (3.750)	Sep 25	Aug 20

Net Asset Values © 2026 Morningstar Co Estimated at previous day's close see www.Morningstar.co.uk.

World market indices

		Index	Change	
Australia	All Ordinaries	9338.80	-30.10	-0.33pc
Brazil	Bovespa	174586.26	+5.46	+0.01pc
China	Shanghai Composite	3912.52	+23.08	+0.59pc
France	CAC General	8462.39	+23.19	+0.27pc
Germany	DAX	28285.96	+19.82	+0.08pc
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	25652.97	+141.87	+0.56pc
India	BSE S&P SENSEX	77472.94	-183.15	-0.24pc
Japan	Nikkei	66262.16	+401.73	+0.62pc
Singapore	Straits Times	5721.59	-14.09	-0.25pc
Spain	Madrid SE	1089.60	+2.70	+0.13pc
Switzerland	SMI Index	14542.90	+17.81	+0.12pc
USA	Dow Jones	53463.88	-113.52	-0.21pc
USA	Nasdaq	26130.20	-21.10	-0.08pc

Commodities summary

		Price	Change	
Gold	per troy oz	$4501.42	-71.74	-1.54pc
Silver	per troy oz	£50.09	-0.39	-0.77pc
Krugerrand		£3331.38	-39.68	-1.18pc
New Sovereign		£789.67	-9.34	-1.17pc
Maples		£3359.49	-39.57	-1.16pc
Platinum	per oz	£1347.22	-16.66	-1.22pc
Palladium	per oz	£974.74	-8.65	-0.88pc
Copper†	grade A	£10474.32	-25.88	-0.25pc
Tin†	high grade	£40550.49	-200.73	-0.95pc
Lead†		£1402.34	+17.51	+0.50pc
Zinc†	special high grade	£2859.51	+12.05	+0.42pc
Aluminium†	high grade	£2376.73	-1.22	-0.05pc
Nickel†		£12452.16	-46.00	-0.37pc
Baltic Dry Index*		3056.00	+130.00	+4.44pc
Wheat	per tonne	£210.00	+4.25	+2.07pc
Brent Crude	Oct settlement	$87.84	-0.74	-0.84pc

*Copyright Baltic Exchange Information Services Ltd. †Data provided by the London Metal Exchange.

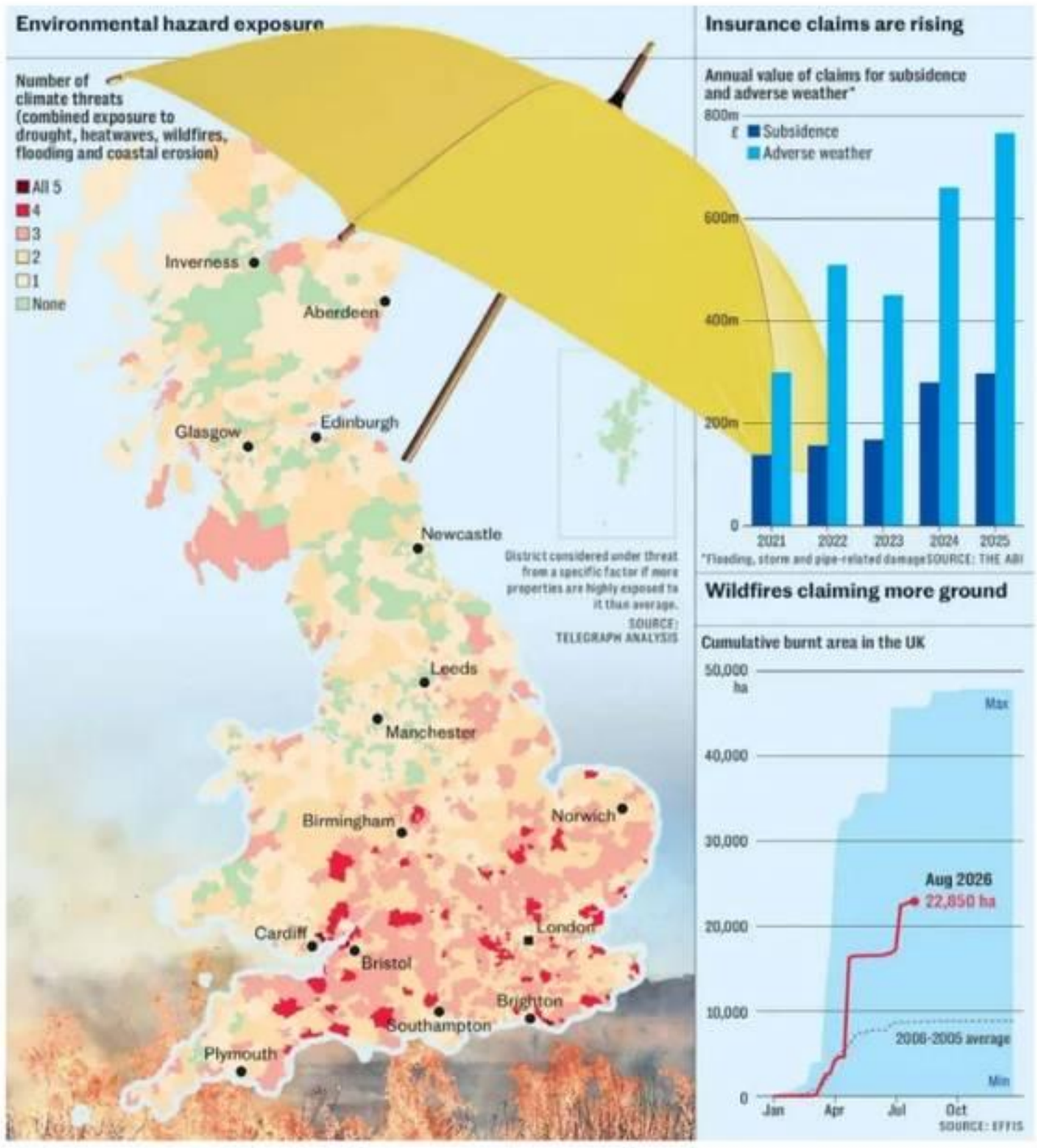
Exchange rates

Tourist rates for indication use only. www.travelex.co.uk

£ = Eur Rate 1.1668 Change -0.14c £ = $ Rate 1.3588 Change -0.45c

		Tourist £1 =	Sterling £1 =	1 Euro =	1 Dollar =
Australia	Aus $	1.8441	1.8963	1.6253	1.3956
Canada	Can $	1.8263	1.8877	1.6178	1.3892
Denmark	Krone	8.2917	8.7227	7.4755	6.4192
Euro	€	1.1395	1.1668	-	0.8587
Hong Kong	HK $	10.1099	10.6516	9.1286	7.8367
India	Rupee	97.41	129.6581	111.1184	95.4175
Israel	Shekels	3.7953	4.0485	3.4696	2.9794
Japan	Yen	209.59	256.6007	185.6293	159.4000
Kuwait	Dinar	-	0.4196	0.3597	0.3088
New Zealand	NZ $	2.2014	2.2898	1.9624	1.6851
Norway	Krone	12.1703	12.7128	10.8900	9.3555
Pakistan	Rupee	340.39	377.3868	323.4247	277.7250
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	4.8472	5.1020	4.3724	3.7546
Singapore	$	1.6394	1.7285	1.4814	1.2726
South Africa	Rand	20.7566	21.7008	18.5979	15.9700
Sweden	Krona	12.2908	12.9581	11.1061	9.5368
Switzerland	Franc	1.0560	1.0955	0.9388	0.8062
Thailand	Baht	42.8329	44.5159	38.1506	32.7600
UAE	Dirham	4.8982	4.9911

How climate change could affect the price of your home



Millions of homes face a worrying future because of extreme weather. By *Ollie Corfe* and *Meike Eijsberg*

THE three most important determinants of property price have always been location, location and location.

No doorstep is more desirable than that with an outstanding school, hassle-free train link and leafy green space around the corner.

However, what is likely to end up the hottest summer on record has provided the strongest hint yet that climate change is tearing up the traditional home-buying checklist.

For 35 million houses across Britain, days of sweltering heat are now far more common. More than 15 million are at risk of drought, 1.8 million from wildfires, 2.8 million from flooding and some 10,000 from coastal erosion. Odds are you live in one of them.

Telegraph analysis finds fewer than one in 20 properties are spared from high exposure to any of these five environmental threats.

Four postcode districts – Seaford's BN25, New Romney's TN28, Newport's NP10 and Avonmouth's BS11 – are vulnerable to each and every one. Just under 50,000 homes are in these areas.

This bodes poorly for future valuations. A home is almost always a family's single biggest asset, meaning climate risk is now also financial risk. Anyone looking to buy, hold, or pass on a house would be wise to take note.

Drought

It was officially England's driest July on record, prompting the declaration of a drought across half the nation by the end of the month. It was later extended to almost three-quarters.

There have been three official droughts in the past five years. "We need to be prepared for this new normal," said Emma Hardy, the water minister.

Some 27 million people are also staring out of their kitchen windows at gardens withering under hosepipe restrictions. The South East – where summer deep soil moisture levels have fallen the most in recent decades – is drought's most likely victim.

Last year, the Environment Agency (EA) warned England's public water supply could be short by five billion litres a day – about a third of current usage – within 30 years as a result of climate change and population growth.

This is already derailing the Government's plan to supply 1.1 million new homes by 2030: water companies last month claimed supplies could only support another 420,000.

Heat

In the lead-up to these conditions, temperature records were broken for both May (35.1C) and June (38C).

We have already had five heatwaves this year. The fourth – running for 37 days between June 30 and August 5 – was the second-longest ever, according to the Met Office.

By mid-July, the UK had clocked more days above 30C than throughout the whole of 1976. Last week saw the tally reach a record-breaking 35.

British houses in general are not built for this kind of weather. Cities, where the abundance of asphalt and concrete traps heat, can be especially inhospitable. Out of the just under 3,000 postcode districts in Britain, 57 typically experience an extra five days above 28C a year than they did in the 90s. All of them are in London.

Adaptation can help ease the pain. Google Trends data show upticks in searches for fans and air conditioning, which have now sold out until spring.

Wildfires

Although human hands most often provide the spark, these conditions make wildfires both more likely and more ferocious. The scenes from France and Spain last month were nothing short of apocalyptic, with Bordeaux and Madrid seeming poised for evacuations. Blazes also broke out in Suffolk, the Cairngorms and the West Midlands.

The national mapping agency Ordnance Survey (OS) believes 7pc of Great Britain's homes are on urban fringes endangered by wildfires.

"Whether it's a barbecue in the back garden, a campfire, or un-extinguished smoking materials tossed from a footpath, there are far more opportunities for wildfires to start in these busy transition areas," said Duncan Moss OBE, a principal geospatial consultant at the OS.

But data show nowhere is the proportion of homes at risk higher than in the TQ11 postcode district around Buckfastleigh in Devon (just under 40pc). The UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology projects up to a 50pc increase in wildfires by 2100.

Flooding

The National Flood Risk Assessment reveals that about 6.3 million properties in England, alongside up to 300,000 in Wales and 400,000 in Scotland, are in areas liable to flooding. Alongside hotter and drier summers, climate projections suggest our winters will become wetter. The winter just gone by was the wettest ever for the West Midlands, Cornwall and Leicestershire, according to Met Office records.

Coastal erosion

Some 10,000 properties are at risk from coastal erosion in the next 80 years, according to the EA. Add to this well over 100 miles of road and railway.

Sea levels could be a metre higher by 2100, although a rise of two metres isn't entirely off the table, according to the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change. Higher water levels allow powerful waves to break further up the shore, wearing away cliffs and beaches faster.

The residents of Hemsby, sandwiched between the North Sea and the Norfolk Broads, know this better than most. About 30 houses have been lost there since 2013. Before Storm Goretti this January, another 14 were served demolition notices.

House prices rose by an average of just 2pc a year in the surrounding NR29 postcode district, HM Land Registry transactions data show – well below the 3.2pc UK-wide.

Subsidence

But even for houses far inland, it can't be guaranteed that the earth on which they stand will stay put. When present, clay minerals in the soil absorb water and swell when they get wet, and then shrink when they dry out again.

Subsidence is one of the most destructive geohazards of all, the British Geological Survey claims, having cost the UK economy an estimated £3bn over the past decade. And this bill is only getting more expensive. Almost £300m was paid out for domestic subsidence claims in 2025, almost double the figure just three years earlier in 2022 (£157m), according to the Association of British Insurers. More than 1.8 million homes could be affected by 2070 under the most likely emissions scenario.

BUSINESS BULLETIN

War hits Dubai airport passenger numbers

Dubai International Airport, one of the world's busiest hubs, said yesterday that it experienced a sharp drop in passengers during the second quarter as the Iran war disrupted air travel.

The airport recorded 13 million passengers during the second quarter, taking the total for the first half of the year to 31.5 million – a drop of 31.3pc in passenger traffic compared with the first half of 2025.

However, Paul Griffiths, the chief executive, said: "I'm very confident we'll be back to full operation in a very short space of time."

Spanish Airbus workers strike over pay proposal

Thousands of Airbus workers in Spain have resumed strike action after rejecting the company's latest pay offer and mediation proposal, unions said yesterday.

Unions said about 90pc of eligible workers took part in Tuesday's stoppage, which they described as the start of an indefinite strike following 22 days of industrial action in July.

The three striking Spanish unions represent about 40pc of Airbus Spain's roughly 14,000 employees.

A further mediation meeting is scheduled for today.

Rallies urge flexible working for parents

Parents are joining protests today to call for more support for mothers and fathers juggling work and family life.

Campaign groups Flex Appeal and the Dad Shift have organised events in towns and cities across the country as well as at Downing Street, Holyrood and the Welsh Senedd.

The groups are calling for companies to embrace flexible working by default and for six weeks' paternity leave, paid at 90pc of salary. The rallies will take place as a Government review on parental leave nears its final stages.

Sales soar at wellness brand backed by Rooney

Applied Nutrition has increased its earnings outlook thanks to a 50pc surge in sales and forecast more growth over the coming year despite pressure from rising whey prices.

The health and wellness brand – which is backed by Coleen Rooney – said it now expects annual underlying earnings to jump by 40pc to about £43.3m after sales soared to £160m in the year to July 31, up from £107m the previous year. It said that since June 1, trading had remained strong with "sustained demand across the group's markets and channels".

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Cricket Headlines

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Telegraph

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Court & Social

Court Circular

BALMORAL CASTLE
August 26
By command of The King, Mr Alistair Harrison (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon Her Excellency Mrs Ismara Mercedes Vargas Walter at 167 High Holborn, London WC1, this afternoon in order to bid farewell to Her Excellency upon relinquishing her appointment as Ambassador from the Republic of Cuba to the Court of St James's.

Today's birthdays

Lady Antonia Fraser, writer, is 94; **Sir Michael Holroyd**, author, 91; **Sir Mark Potter**, President of the Family Division and Head of Family Justice, 2005-10, 89; **Mr James Wyness**, former captain, Saracens rugby club; Senior Partner, Linklaters and Paines, 1994-96, 89; **Sir John Royce**, a former High Court Judge, 82; **Lt Gen Sir Alistair Irwin**, Vice Chairman, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 2011-13; Adjutant General, 2003-05, 78; **Prof Deborah Swallow**, Märit Rausing Director, Courtauld Institute of Art, 2004-23, 78; **Mr Andrew MacKay**, former Conservative MP, 77; **Miss Ann Murray**, mezzo-soprano, 77; **the Rt Rev Christine Hardman**, Bishop of Newcastle, 2015-21, 75; **the Rt Rev Donald Allister**, Bishop of Peterborough, 2010-23, 74; **Mr John Lloyd**, commentator; former tennis player, 72; **Mr Glen Matlock**, former Sex Pistol, 70; **Mr Bernhard Langer**, golfer; Masters Champion, 1985 and 1993, and Captain, European Ryder Cup team 2004, 69; **Sir Hugh Orde**, President, Association of Chief Police Officers, 2009-15, 67; **Mr Justice Turner**, 67; **Mr Gerhard Berger**, former Formula One racing driver, 67; **Ms Sian Edwards**, conductor, 67; **Prof Jeanette Winterson**, writer, 67; **Mr David Morgan-Hewitt**, Chairman, The Goring, 64; **Lord Summers**, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 62; **Ms Heather Hancock**, Master of St John's College, Cambridge, 62; **Mr Peter Ebdon**, former snooker player; World Champion, 2002, 56; **Dame Denise Lewis**, former athlete; Olympic gold medallist, heptathlon, Sydney 2000; President, UK Athletics, 54; **Miss Suranne Jones**, actress, 48; and **Mr Ed McKeever**, former sprint canoeist; Olympic gold medallist, men's kayak single (K1) 200m, London 2012, 43.

Today is the anniversary of the drilling of the world's first oil well in Pennsylvania in 1859, and of the assassination of Earl Mountbatten of Burma in 1979. It is also the anniversary of the births in 1908 of Donald Bradman, Australian cricketer, and of Lyndon Baines Johnson, US President.

Forthcoming marriage

Mr G. Hasell-McCosh and Miss S. Wilson
The engagement is announced between George, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Hasell-McCosh, of Dalemain, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Wilson, of Newbury.
Online ref: WD052077

New life peers

BARON DAVEY OF CHALK FARM
Baron Davey of Chalk Farm, of Chalk Farm in the London Borough of Camden, is the gazetted name, style and title conferred upon Marcus John Davey.
BARON MCTAGUE
Baron McTague, of Heighington in the County of Durham, is the name, style and title conferred upon Martin Gerard McTague.

Bridge news

Last week the highest score in the EBU morning Relaxed Games was 74.07%, **writes Julian Pottage, Bridge Correspondent**. One pair achieved this score, Derek Thrumble, partnering Eileen Mulvenna, on Thursday. The highest score in the EBU evening Relaxed Games was 80.73%, achieved by Brian Leach, partnering Valerie Blake, on Friday.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The Daily Telegraph.

LONDON, FRIDAY AUGUST 27, 1926

MR. CHURCHILL AND COAL DISPUTE.

REPLY TO MEN'S APPEAL.

MINERS DISAPPOINTED.

Yesterday's meeting between the miners' leaders and members of the Government resulted in the addition of one more to the already long list of fruitless conferences which have taken place on the subject of the coal dispute. For well over an hour the officials of the Miners' Federation were in consultation with the Ministers, who included the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but no real progress towards a settlement was made.

The men's leaders went into the conference not with the object of making any proposals for peace, but in the hope that they might receive some suggestion which might extricate them from their present position.

In this they were disappointed. Mr. Churchill, in response to the appeal made to him, once more made it plain that while the Government were anxious to do everything they could to promote peace, the solution of the problem was primarily a matter for the two parties to the industry.

The men's leaders went to Downing-street already prepared to make an immediate journey to the North to explain the position to the men, who continue to return to the pits in ever-growing numbers.

It was learned that a full report of the meeting, prepared with the greatest possible despatch, was sent by special courier to the Prime Minister at Aix-les-Bains. It is gathered that no further meeting has yet definitely been arranged.

An announcement from the Home Office yesterday stated that during a short holiday in Scotland the Home Secretary has been in close daily touch with the Home Office, and is taking every possible step to prevent intimidation of men willing to work. Sir W. Joynson-Hicks is returning to London to-day, and will take charge of the Emergency Regulations in the House of Commons next week.

A SPECULATIVE MOVE.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

The meeting which the officials of the Miners' Federation requested with members of the Coal Committee of the Cabinet took place at No. 10, Downing-street, last evening, and has left the position absolutely unchanged. No further meetings appeared to be probable for the moment.

The officials of the Miners' Federation who attended were Mr. Herbert Smith (president), Mr. Thomae Richards (vice-president), Mr. W. P. Richardson (treasurer), and Mr. A. J. Cook (secretary). In order to meet them, Mr. Winston Churdhill (Chancellor of the Exchequer) came to town from Westerham; Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland (Minister of Labour) travelled overnight from Scotland, and Lieut.-Colonel G. R. Lane-Fox (Secretary for Mines) arrived from Yorkshire. The proceedings commenced at five o'clock, and it was suggestive of a hasty departure to find all the miners' leaders arriving with their handbags, ready to leave by the first possible train for their districts.

After an hour and a half's conference Mr. Smith, Mr. Richards, and Mr. Richardson left together. They declined to make any statement as to what transpired, and referred inquirers to Mr. Cook, who remained behind. When he left No. 10 the secretary was equally uncommunicative, curtly remarking that an official report would be issued.

It would seem that the miners' officials approached the Ministers without having any definite plan for a settlement, instead hoping that Ministers might be able to suggest to them some way out.

Mr. Churchill, it is learned, left no doubt in their minds that the dispute is one for the parties themselves to resolve, although the Government would assist if it were at all possible, but at present there does not appear to be any prospect of the Government intervening with any hope of success. The Miners' Executive are thus thrown back on their own resources, and will have to formulate some new plans before negotiations can be resumed. The question of a subsidy, it is believed, is absolutely ruled out, nor is there the slightest prospect of a Government loan being entertained.

"RUSHING TO DESTRUCTION."

Mr. Cook, speaking at Woodford, Essex, last night, said it was a tragedy in 1926, in a so-called educated Christian democracy, to read of baton charges by the police in the mining areas. He heard that day that soldiers were to be drafted into the mining areas. Mr. Baldwin had made more rebels in the last few months than he (Mr. Cook) could make in a lifetime.

"This great tragedy," added Mr. Cook, "has gone on too long. It has cost more than the pre-strike rate to all grades would have done for two years. It is destroying the morale of the best men in the country. We will never go back to longer hours. If we are forced to do so, then the agreement will last for so long as the owners have power to keep it in force, and only for so long. We are rushing headlong to destruction through the blindness of our politicians and the avarice of the coal-owners."

FRESH DISORDER IN MINING DISTRICTS.

Following the quelling of the disturbances in the Mansfield area, St. Helens, Lancashire, was yesterday the scene of serious disorders. For six hours the police were engaged in dealing with a crowd of 3,000 aggressive strikers, and several baton charges had to be made before the miners could be induced to disperse.

For the past three days the general tendency to disorder had been growing at St. Helens, but nothing so serous as the occurrences of yesterday had taken place. During the afternoon 3,000 strikers, in an angry mood, assembled near Ashton's Green Colliery. The police called upon them to disperse, but without avail, and it was not long before police officers had been assaulted. Stone-throwing became general, and three times during the afternoon mounted and foot police charged the crowd with drawn batons, scattering the miners across the fields and along the road. Violent scenes ensued, several mounted men being struck by missiles aimed by the infuriated men.

Forced away from the colliery, many of the men set out wilfully to damage property, their final objective being the Railway Hotel, near Ashton's Green pit, where a fusillade of stones and bricks resulted in the whole of the windows being smashed.

Injuries to individuals were apparently numerous. Two Pressmen, accused of taking photographs, were badly mauled by a section of the crowd and hustled to the canal, where the crowd pitched their camera away.

STILL INTIMIDATION.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT, CHESTERFIELD

Now that the miners of Derbyshire are beginning to forget the despairing appeals of Mr. Cook, they are again turning their attention to resumption of work. More than 1,000 went back to-day at Bolsover, Holmewood, Langwith, and Glapwell. **Intimidation is still persisted in at various centres, and Superintendent Stone has issued a grave warning.** In Derbyshire there are now 7,000 miners at work, and the output of goal is considerable.

WOMAN FINED FOR STONING POLICE.

A young married woman, Beatrice Bennett, was fined £5 yesterday at Mansfield for throwing stones at a motor lorry conveying police officers through the village. When apprehended she said she threw the stones because it suited her purpose to do so.

BACK TO THE PITS.

Although considerably increased numbers of men at work were reported yesterday from Nottingham and Derby, Warwick, Cannock Chase, Leicester, and Yorkshire, the officials claim that after sixteen weeks of privation the men are still united, and that the numbers reported as working are inflated. They are confident that not 5 per cent. of their members have resumed, or will ever willingly resume, until a national agreement has been made with the Miners' Federation on terms that have a reasonable prospect of acceptance on a ballot. The terms of such an agreement might involve a wage reduction, but they urge that its principles must be national, and the ratio of wages to profits must be uniform over all districts, and that the eight hours day must be excluded from its scope.

TRIP TO RUSSIA SEEKING FUNDS

A party of miners and miners' wives leaves England to-day for Russia, under the auspices of the Miners' Federation, with the object of collecting funds. They will be headed by Mrs. A. J. Cook, wife of the secretary. They will be the guests of the Russian trade unions. Four members of the Miner's' Executive are at present touring America with the same object of obtaining financial aid, and the General Council is sending members to all European countries to enlist trade union help.

Announcements

Email: announcements.ads@telegraph.co.uk **Book online:** announcements.telegraph.co.uk

Deaths

ASTLEY BIRTWISTLE.—Evelyn (née Humphries) died unexpectedly on August 3rd. Dearly loved wife of Damien, beloved mother to Emma and Samantha, and cherished sister. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Wimbledon. Details to follow.
Online Ref: WD052058

GARBER.—Paul. It is with deep sorrow that we announce the sudden passing of our beloved Paul on Friday 7th August 2026. He will be lovingly remembered and deeply missed by his wife Margaret, children, sisters and extended family as well as all who knew and cherished him. May his memory forever remain a blessing. The Funeral will take place at 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday 2nd September at Randalls Park Crematorium, Randalls Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 0AG. The family requests no flowers or cards to the house.
Online Ref: WD052832

KENDALL.—Mary Rosamund, of Cambridge, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Tuesday 11th August, aged 83 years. A teacher throughout her life, Mary inspired and supported countless children, leaving a legacy of warmth, encouragement and quiet guidance that will be remembered by many. A dearly loved mother to Rosamund and treasured grandmother to Oscar, Mary's gentle nature, generosity of spirit and kindness touched all who knew her. She will be held in loving memory and deeply missed. A Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday 9th September at 2 p.m., at St Laurence's Roman Catholic Church, Cambridge, followed by the committal at Cambridge Crematorium, East Chapel. Flowers are welcome. Donations, if wished, may be made to the Blue Cross, via Mary's In Memory page at www.peasgoodandsheates.co.uk
All enquiries to Peasgood & Sheates, 164 Histon Road, Cambridge, CB4 3JP. Tel: 01223 798060.
Online Ref: WD052210

O'DONNELL.—Rory Colm died peacefully in Salisbury, Wiltshire on 16th August 2026 aged 77 years. Beloved father of Patrick Hugh and much loved brother of Teresa Elizabeth. Private funeral.
Online Ref: WD052080

SAMPSON.—Molly, 9th February 1938 – 19th July 2026. Molly passed away aged 88 and will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by her family and friends. A much loved mother, Molly was a wonderfully individual and independent lady who lived life very much on her own terms. She had a great love of travel and particularly of cruising, which brought her enormous happiness in her later years. Those wishing to remember Molly are invited to donate to the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND Association). Rest peacefully, Molly. "Mind how you go."
Online Ref: WD052305

WILLIAMS.—Thomas Gwyn, Brigadier, CBE, died peacefully at the age of 94 on 23rd August 2026. Loving husband of the late Sally, father of Nicholas, Caroline and the late Charlotte, and grandpa of Isobel, Georgia, Benjamin and Harry. Private family cremation. Thanksgiving service at St Martin's Church, Martinstown, Dorset, on a date to be determined. Donations in Tom's memory can be made to Marie Curie in the church or through Grassby Funeral Service, 8 Princes Street, Dorchester, DT1 1TW via www.grassby-funeral.co.uk
Online Ref: WD052224

Personal

Text for the day

JESUS SAID unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.
John 8.58 (AV)

Legal Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES COMPANIES COURT (ChD)

IN THE MATTER OF MORTGAGE SUPPORT SERVICES LTD (No 6055271) AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

CLAIM NUMBER CR-2026-005996

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 24 August 2026 a Claim Form was issued in His Majesty's High Court of Justice seeking the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company, by cancelling and extinguishing a total of 8,340 shares of £0.01 each in the capital of the Company (comprising C Ordinary Shares, G Ordinary Shares, H Ordinary Shares, J Ordinary Shares and K Ordinary Shares) and the reduction of the amounts standing to the credit of the Company's share premium account by £208,086.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the final hearing of the Claim is directed to be heard before the Insolvency and Companies Court Judge at the Royal Courts of Justice, The Rolls Building, 7 Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1NL on 8 September 2026 at 10:30am.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by legal representative for that purpose.

A copy of the Claim Form will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated 27 August 2026

Browne Jacobson LLP
Mowbray House
Castle Meadow Road
Nottingham
NG2 1BJ
(Tel: 0115 934 2018)
Solicitors for the above-named Company

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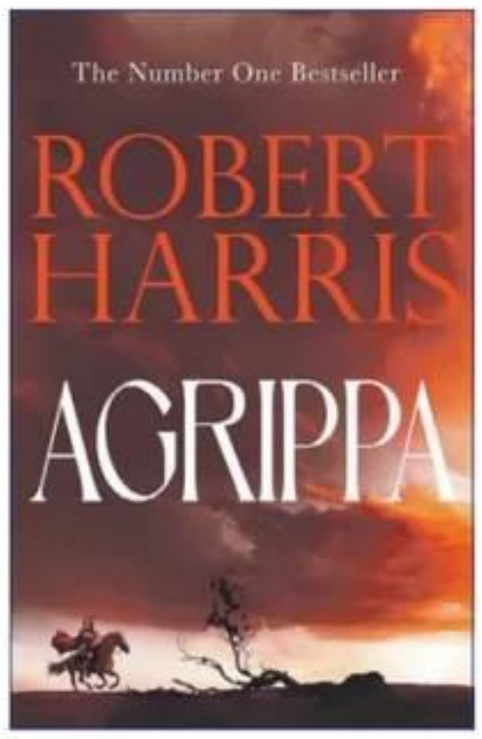

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Bridge Hand

Tosh under the cosh

By **Tom Townsend**

Dealer East
Vulnerability North-South

	♠ A K Q 6 ♥ A Q 10 4 2 ♦ 8 ♣ 9 6 4	
♠ 10 2 ♥ 8 ♦ Q 9 7 6 ♣ A 10 8 5 3 2	N W E S	♠ J 8 5 3 ♥ K 9 7 6 3 ♦ A 10 3 ♣ 7
	♠ 9 7 4 ♥ J 5 ♦ K J 5 4 2 ♣ K Q J	

West	North	East	South
		pass	1♦ (1)
3♣ (2)	3♥ (3)	pass	3NT
pass	pass	pass	

(1) Aceless muck better passed
(2) Weak jump overcall
(3) Natural, forcing to game

Contract 3NT
Declarer South
Opening Lead ♣5

THERE are 18 teams left in the BGB Gold Cup. In the top half of the draw, the round-of-16 ties are (were) Fegarty-Pigot, Smith-Black, Allfrey-Plumley, Brock-Mossop. In the bottom half it's Dyson-Mitchell, Root-Penfold, Moran-Denning, Lee-De Botton.

Smith (unseeded) played 2022 winners Black (5) on Bridge Base Online a few days ago. At least one of the players must have been a Premium Member, since BBO have recently limited free play to six boards a day. That's sad to hear. One hates to see obstacles to the new and curious taking up bridge – especially youngsters without access to payment cards. Blame private equity for this if you like – the original founders sold out to 52 Entertainment (owned by Groupe HLD) in 2018. One can still enjoy unlimited free bridge at IntoBridge.

After 48 boards and a ruling, the scores were tied. Six extra boards will decide. North-South here were Nick Smith and Alan Wilson. East-West were Andrew McIntosh and Bertie Black.

Black led a club to 3NT, won by the ♣K. Wilson held trick two with the ♥J, and continued with a heart to the ♥Q. Tosh won and switched to the ♦10. Wilson finessed the ♦J, losing to the ♦Q, and aced the ♠10 switch in dummy.

This was the position:

	♠ K Q 6 ♥ A 10 4 ♦ none ♣ 9 6	
♠ 2 ♥ none ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ A 10 8 3	N W E S	♠ J 8 5 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ A 3 ♣ none
	♠ 9 7 ♥ none ♦ K 5 4 2 ♣ Q J	

East, in sole charge of three suits, was already struggling. South cashed the ♥A and played a club, East discarding the ♦3. West won and returned a club, neatly executing his partner. When the same contract failed next door, Smith gained 12 IMPs.

Table One 3NT made, N/S +600
Table Two 3NT off one, N/S -100

We've Got, a new book by experienced teachers Harold Schogger and Paul Bowyer, guides novices through the language of bidding in Acol.

Chess

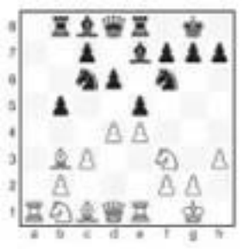
The fab four

By **Malcolm Pein**

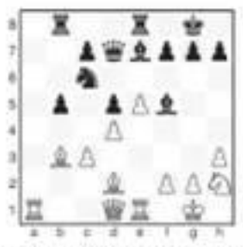
WESLEY So, Fabiano Caruana, Vincent Keymer and Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa contested the Final Four of the Grand Chess Tour, staged at the St Louis Chess Club. The first-round pairings were determined by how the players had finished in the GCT overall. Each match consisted of two Classical games, worth six points each, two Rapid games worth four points each and four Blitz games, worth two points. In the event of two draws at Classical, a bonus Blitz was played.

Keymer trailed 3-9 to Pragg. Caruana won the Bonus Blitz, below, to take a 8-6 lead.

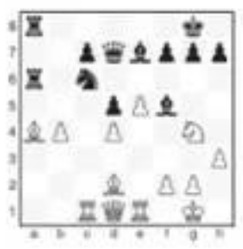
F Caruana – W So
GCT Final Four St Louis
Ruy Lopez: Anti Marshall 5-3
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0–0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0–0 8.a4 Rb8 (Magnus Carlsen deployed this line twice against Ian Nepomniachtchi at the WCC in 2021) **9.axb5 axb5 10.h3 d6 11.c3 Be6?!** (11...b4 12.d3 bxc3 13.bxc3 d5 14.Nbd2 dxe4 15.dxe4 Bd6 - Nepomniachtchi – Carlsen, WCC, 2021 (5)) **12.d4!** (Now Black has a bad Ruy Lopez where a2-a4, Ra8-b8 and a4xb5 have been interpolated)



12...exd4 13.cxd4 d5?! 14.e5 Ne4 15.Nc3 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Bf5 17.Bd2 Qd7 (Now 18.g4 was more forceful) **18.Nh2**



18...b4?! (18...Ra8! 19.Ng4 Na5 forces favourable exchanges) **19.Ba4 Ra8?** (19...Rf8 or 19...bxc3 20.Bxc3 were better) **20.cxb4 Reb8? 21.Rc1 Rb6 22.Ng4** (Black is a pawn down and pinned down) **22...Rba6?** White play and win.



Answer:
33.Rc7 Ra6 34.b7
33.Be7+ 1–0 If 33...Ra6 34.b6 Rb8
31.Rxe4 dxe4 32.Be7+ Ke7+
29.Rxc7 Rxg4 30.Rxd8 Re4
27.Rf4 Rxg4 28.Qxg4 Rxd4
Qd8 27.Rf4 Rxg4 28.Qxg4 Rxd4
23.e6! Qd6 (23...Rb6 24.Nc5)
21.e7+ Kf8 22.b5 Rxe4 26.Rxc6
23.Rc7 Rb6 24.Nc5)

Tim Curry

Off-the-wall star of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* who played the diabolical Dr Frank-N-Furter

TIM CURRY, who has died aged 80, made his name in the cheerfully degenerate *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975), the classic cult film musical in which he camped up the riotous proceedings clad in women's underwear, his face daubed with lipstick and eyeliner, a high-heeled monster in drag.

With his screen portrayal of Dr Frank-N-Furter, the diabolical mad scientist and "sweet transvestite from transsexual Transylvania", Curry reprised the role he had originated in the 1973 London and 1974 Los Angeles stage productions of Richard O'Brien's fantasy rock opera *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Although it attracted a huge cult following, critical opinion of *The Rocky Horror Show* was divided. Some reviewers praised Curry's dynamic stage performance as "a mixture of Joan Crawford and Burt Lancaster" and "Mick Jagger, David Bowie and Marc Bolan all in one". On Broadway, however, the show was a disaster. As Curry himself explained, "we billed it as the hit of London and LA so a lot of tight-lipped New Yorkers sat there saying: 'But not here, kid.'"

The follow-up film also teetered on the brink of swift extinction. Curry recalled how, at the first screening, studio executives "just sat there stunned, mouths open, wondering what to do with this lulu which had already flopped on Broadway". The film was saved by a newly appointed marketing executive who arranged midnight screenings in every town attended by a ready-made audience of enthusiastic horror fans.

While it may have become a teenage rite of passage, with young filmgoers turning up in women's black underwear and six-inch heels, in Britain the tabloid *Daily Star* considered the film remarkably silly and juvenile, and it reminded the trade paper *CinemaTV Today* of an expensive sixth-form revue with a lot of ideas "which must have looked very funny on paper but which come a cropper in practice".

Nevertheless, it sealed Curry's reputation as an off-the-wall performer, and in 1981 he was cast as Mozart in the play *Amadeus*, a Broadway role that earned him a nomination for a Tony award. His other notable stage roles included that of the Pirate King in *The Pirates Of Penzance* in 1982 and the Cockney Bill Snibson in *Me and My Girl* in 1987. Between 2004 and 2007 he played King Arthur in the Monty Python musical *Spamalot* on stage in Chicago, Broadway and the West End.

Curry's stage breakthrough was as a member of the original London cast of the American rock musical *Hair* in 1968. His initial reluctance to audition was overcome when a friend added copious amounts of gin to some honey and lemon he was taking for a sore throat, "and I lost all my inhibitions". He later admitted lying his way into the cast by claiming he had been touring in cabaret.

It was through being given his break in *Hair* that he met Richard O'Brien, who went on to write *The Rocky Horror Show*. When O'Brien was looking to cast his crazed scientist, he bumped into Curry in the street and showed him the script.

Abandoning his original idea of playing the character with a German and then an American accent, Curry decided to play Dr Frank-N-Furter in cut-glass English tones after hearing an upper-class Englishwoman ask "Do you have a house in town or a house in the country?", and determined that his character "should sound like the Queen".

When the show, originally staged at the Royal Court's Theatre Upstairs in 1973, was transformed into a film musical two years later, the *Telegraph* praised Curry's black-suspendered portrayal of Frank-N-Furter as "a distillation of Ethel Merman, Mick Jagger and Shirley Bassey. Here is impudent brio, a screen-filling original of three-dimensional presence".

Curry, right, as Frank-N-Furter: his stage performance was praised as 'a mixture of Joan Crawford and Burt Lancaster' and 'Mick Jagger, David Bowie and Marc Bolan all in one'

JIM SMEAL/RON GALELLA/GETTY IMAGES/ALAMY

Curry's "period toothiness" in a BBC Television adaptation of Jerome K Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat* (1976) led to his being offered the title role of *Will Shakespeare* on ITV two years later, the producer explaining that Curry looked just as the Bard might have looked as a young man. He may have been an unlikely choice on paper, noted Sylvia Clayton in the *Telegraph*, but she found Curry "full of natural vitality [with] the large eyes and well-shaped mouth of the Shakespeare portraits".

Although written by the former barrister and creator of *Rumpole*, John Mortimer, the Shakespeare series fell with a thud, as Curry put it, because it was transmitted at the same time as World Cup football. In a change of direction, Curry decided to try his luck as a solo rock singer and spent three years on the road in America with his own band.

The son of a Royal Navy Methodist chaplain, Timothy James Curry was born on April 19 1946 in Grappenhall, on the outskirts of Warrington, Cheshire, and briefly attended Lymm High School before the family moved to Plymouth, and then to south London. As a boarder at Kingswood School in Bath he was a talented boy treble, but he set his sights on a stage career and graduated from Birmingham University in 1968 with a degree in English and drama. He joined the original London cast of *Hair* the same year.

Following the *Rocky Horror Show*'s run on Broadway, Curry returned to the stage as the Dadaist Tristan Tzara in Tom Stoppard's *Travesties*, which ran in London and New York between 1975 and 1976. In the title role of *Amadeus* he was nominated for his first Tony Award (Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play), but lost out to his co-star Ian McKellen, who played Antonio Salieri.

After *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, Curry was cast in further film and television roles, including that of Rooster in the 1982 film adaptation of *Annie*, and as Nigel Thornberry in the American animated children's TV series *The Wild Thornberrys*.

In 1985, Curry starred in the fantasy film *Legend* as the Lord of Darkness, a monstrous eight-foot high bestial figure with huge horns, fangs and cloven hooves. The director, Ridley Scott, who had seen Curry in *Rocky Horror*, considered him the ideal choice to play the devil incarnate, urging him to produce a bull-like roar to complement his evil looks.

It took more than five hours to apply Curry's make-up – "I look like 200lb of condemned tandoori," he said – and at the end of each day's filming he spent an hour in a bath to liquefy the soluble spirit gum. The strain of wearing such a costume and make-up meant that Curry could only work two days a week, and then only with regular draughts of neat oxygen.

In the mid-1980s, Curry appeared in several National Theatre productions including *The Rivals* (1983) and as Mack the Knife in *The Threepenny Opera* (1986), and in 1988 he starred as Bill Snibson in a national tour of *Me and My Girl*.

He was back on Broadway in 1993, in a musical version of *My Favourite Year*, which earned him a second Tony Award nomination, for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical. His Broadway portrayal of King Arthur in *Spamalot* in 2005 brought him a third Tony nomination. A year later he reprised the role in the West End, winning the Theatregoers' Choice Award for Best Actor in a Musical.

In 2011 ill health forced him to pull out of Trevor Nunn's production of Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* at the Chichester Festival Theatre, but the following year he starred in Eric Idle's play *What About Dick?* at the Orpheum Theatre in Los Angeles. Curry's stage career was recognised in 2015 at the annual Tony Awards Viewing Party, where he received an Artistic Achievement Award.

Although in the cinema he appeared most often in comedy films – including *Clue* (1985) and *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* (1992) – he also played Dr Yevgeniy Petrov in the thriller *The Hunt for Red October* (1990) and gave a generation of viewers a phobia of clowns as Pennywise in the 1990 television miniseries of Stephen King's *It*. He also hammed it up magnificently for his performance as a velvet-voiced Long John Silver in *Muppet Treasure Island* (1996): a role that he frequently cited as a personal favourite. An ad-libbed line that suggested his character had had an affair with Miss Piggy was dropped from the final cut.

More recently he appeared in the British black comedy *Burke and Hare* as Dr Alexander Monro, in 2010, and between 2012 and 2014 he voiced the evil Chancellor Palpatine in *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. In 2025 he published his memoir, *Vagabond*.

Tim Curry, who suffered a stroke in 2012 which left him a wheelchair user, was unmarried. His elder sister, Judy Curry, a concert pianist, died of a brain tumour in 2000.

Tim Curry, born April 19 1946, died August 25 2026

Christina Gascoigne

Helped her husband Bamber to build Grange Park Opera

CHRISTINA GASCOIGNE, who has died aged 87, was an Arabist, photographer and ceramicist whose teenage account of being caught up in the 1958 Lebanon crisis made gripping reading; she also accompanied her polymath husband Bamber Gascoigne, the *University Challenge* presenter, on countless adventures, contributing to his books and helping him to build an opera house in the grounds of a stately home he inherited from a great-aunt.

The couple once drove a Peugeot 404 through the Khyber Pass and on to India to research his book *The Great Moghuls* (1971), later a television documentary. The journey was not without incident: Christina rolled the car and they knocked someone down, though neither vehicle nor pedestrian suffered serious damage.

Another adventure came in 2014 when he inherited West Horsley Place, a tumbledown Tudor mansion in Surrey, from Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe. The couple sold the duchess's possessions, using the £8.8 million proceeds to restore the 50-room pile and build a 700-seat opera house that in 2017 became the home of Grange Park Opera.

"We both always had a 'let's go' attitude," she said. "And Bamber was very susceptible to enthusiasm. If I said, 'Oh, that sounds exciting,' he'd go and do it."

Christina Mary Ditchburn was born in Baghdad on February 1 1939, the youngest of four children of Alfred Ditchburn, an administrative inspector at the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior, and his wife Gladys.

She was educated at Malvern Girls' College and in 1958 visited relatives in the mountains above Beirut. With instability rising, the US launched Operation Blue Bat, sending 14,000 troops to protect the pro-western government. Christina could hear the fighting: "Every night we would sit and wait, and when we went to bed we listened and waited, and tried to count the bomb explosions echoing up the mountainside from Beirut," she wrote.

Back in Britain she read Arabic and Persian at Girton College, Cambridge. There she met Bamber, who was writing a postgraduate thesis about the history of 20th-century drama. Michael Frayn in his memoir *Among Others* (2023) recalls that she had many admirers, and on graduating she travelled through Iran with one of them. Bamber debated whether to go after her; he did, and won her back.

She was no lover of celebrity

Their first date was to see *The Investigator*, which he had adapted for the stage from a radio play and in which he played Voltaire, albeit with only a single line. He dreamed of being an actor. She suggested he stick to writing. "We hardly stopped seeing each other for the next 60 years," she said. They married in 1965, sharing a house in Sloane Square with a monkey who "peed everywhere". Staff at the neighbouring Peter Jones department store had a clear view of them in bed.

Unsure what to do next, Christina Gascoigne was approached by the Foreign Office to teach English in Sikkim, north-east India, with a view to being a spy, though the plan came to nought. Bamber, meanwhile, had become a star with his 1957 revue *Share My Lettuce* in the West End with Maggie Smith and Kenneth Williams. Since 1962 he had also been presenting *University Challenge*. "He loved it, although I didn't," she said of his fame.

Able, attractive and graceful, Christina Gascoigne continued with her photography. Her work appears in *The Christians* (1977), which accompanied Bamber's 13-part television series of that name, and in *Castles of Britain* (1980), with pictures of 87 British fortresses.

Home was a brightly painted, four-storey, riverside Georgian house in Richmond, where the couple established the Saint Helena Press in their front room, producing editions of rare prints. Christina Gascoigne made and sold ceramic pots from her studio, which opened directly on to the Thames.

Bamber Gascoigne died in 2022.

Christina Gascoigne, born February 1 1939, died August 14 2026

Pauline Clayden

Ballerina adept at conveying pathos and vulnerability who kept on dancing through the Blitz

PAULINE CLAYDEN, who has died aged 103, made her debut as a ballet dancer at Covent Garden in 1939, braved the Blitz with the London Ballet and later worked with Frederick Ashton and Robert Helpmann at the Sadler's Wells Ballet.

There, Pauline Clayden's willowy air of vulnerability and pathos led to her being cast in 1942 as Ophelia, a role originally created by Helpmann for Margot Fonteyn, in his *Hamlet*, and she created the role of the Suicide in his *Miracle in the Gorbals* (1944), a work of gritty realism in which her character is brought back to life by a mysterious Christ-like stranger (danced by Helpmann himself). In 1945 she was a key member of the company for Ensa-organised tours to Paris, Belgium and Germany.

Ashton had spent part of the war in the RAF, but after he was demobbed Pauline Clayden caught his eye. In 1946, when the Sadler's Wells Ballet re-opened the Royal Opera House, she was the Fairy of the Song Birds, one of the six fairy godmothers to Margot Fonteyn's title character, in *The Sleeping Beauty* (part-choreographed by Ashton), a role she reprised in 1949 during the company's triumphant first tour of North America.

Ashton cast her as a child in his *Les Sirènes* (1946) and she was one of the original cast of his *Scènes de ballet* (1948), when she had to get to grips with the complex "geometrical" choreography he devised to accompany Stravinsky's polyrhythmic score.

The following year she created the role of Fairy Autumn, with its off-balance pirouettes, in Ashton's *Cinderella*, and she was one of a pair of copulating snakes, sinuously intertwining with Brian Shaw, in his *Tiresias* (1951), one of many "animal" roles she danced over the years.

Ashton also cast her in several roles he had originally created for Margot Fonteyn, including Chief Child of Light in his intense barefoot *Dante Sonata* (1950), as Chloë in *Daphnis and Chloë* (1951) and as Queen of the Air in *Homage to the Queen* (1953).

Although Pauline Clayden seldom danced the lead in classical roles, in 1953 Ashton coached her in the title role of *Giselle*, which she danced four times at Covent Garden, the choreographer later praising her interpretation as one of the best he had seen.

As Ophelia in *Hamlet* at Sadler's Wells and, below, with Robert Helpmann in *Miracle in the Gorbals*

ERICH AUERBACH/HOPE PHOTO VIA GETTY

Pauline Clayden retired in 1956, but her contribution to the Sadler's Wells (now Royal Ballet) company is preserved in the meticulous records she kept of every performance in which she danced – records now held in the archives of the Royal Opera House. In the early 1990s she helped to revive the "Spirits of the Air" *pas de deux* from *Homage to the Queen* for an Ashton programme at Covent Garden.

Pauline Elsie Clayden was born in Lewisham on October 12 1922 to Frederick Clayden, a lawyer with the regulatory body overseeing the running of railways in pre-nationalisation days, and Ada, née Taylor, who encouraged Pauline to train at the Cone School of Dancing, but died when her daughter was 15.

In 1939 the 16-year-old Pauline was plucked out of the Cone School by Antony Tudor, founder of the London Ballet, to perform in ballet sequences in productions of *Turandot*, *Aida* and *Parsifal* at Covent Garden.

She subsequently joined the London Ballet company and performed in "Lunchtime Ballets", staged at the tiny Arts Theatre Club during the Blitz during daylight hours before the daily black-out.

"I can very distinctly remember in *Les Sylphides*, when it came to all 12 of us on the stage with our backs to the audience, doing the *port de bras* with our heads over and hearing this terrific whistle of this bomb coming," she told an interviewer. "We just froze in our position, we heard the bang go and the whole theatre rocked. We knew that it had landed, and just carried on, and the music went on and we carried on."

She stayed on after the London Ballet merged, briefly and unhappily, with the Ballet Rambert, recalling that the dancers often performed to 78rpm records alternating on several turntables. On one occasion, while waiting in the wings as understudy for the role of Dorabella in *Enigma Variations*, instead of Elgar, she heard: "And this is how things stood, the bird was on one branch of the tree and the cat on another" – the stage manager having mixed up the records and put on Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* instead.

In 1942 she joined Sadler's Wells Ballet, then based at what is now the Noël Coward Theatre in St Martin's Lane, where, despite the best efforts of the Luftwaffe, the dancers kept going until the end of the war: "There was a lot of gunfire. We could hear the guns going when they tried to shoot the bombers down. That made quite a racket."

As well as her work with Helpmann and Ashton, Pauline Clayden created roles in Ninette de Valois's *Promenade*, John Cranko's *Bonne-Bouche* and Andrée Howard's *Veneziana*. Other roles included Una in *The Quest*, the Flower Girl in *Nocturne* and Waltz in *Les Sylphides*.

In 1948 Pauline Clayden married Major Howard Gamble, a medical student who went on to become a professor of neuroanatomy, and in 1956 she left the Sadler's Wells company to start a family. Later, she taught at a local dance school in Purley, and in 1984 she and her husband retired to Devon.

He died in 1999 and she is survived by their daughter and son.

Pauline Clayden, born October 12 1922, died July 21 2026

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ABTA

Television & Radio

What to watch

FIGHTLAND
Sky Atlantic, from 9pm

Howard Charles plays Duke Kilroy in Fightland, a violent drama written by rapper 50 Cent

Boxing meets organised crime in this violent new London-set drama from Curtis Jackson, better known as the rapper 50 Cent, who also writes the opening music.

Tonight's three (of eight) episodes introduce us to Duke Kilroy (*Top Boy's* Howard Charles), whose stint as a champion boxer is only a few hours old when a tragic and violent development in a parking garage lands him in jail.

Fast-forward seven years and Duke's sprung from the nick and determined to wreak revenge on those behind his downfall – his former manager, crime kingpin Kingsley Marshall (a charismatic Nicholas Pinnock) and his family.

What unfolds is a story that shares DNA with 50 Cent's US-set crime drama *Power* and its spin-offs, drawing us into a glamorous-but-dangerous world in which our antihero navigates a legitimate business operating alongside a nefarious one.

Here, the wronged Duke travels both a revenge and a redemption arc as he rains violence on the bad guys while also displaying heart and smarts. The result is a gritty tale of pugilism and organised crime that feels familiar but has a gritty London edge and a solid lead in Charles, who never overplays Duke's inner turmoil. ***Vicki Power***

Live Test Cricket: England v Pakistan
Sky Sports Cricket, 10am
England and Pakistan resume their battle at the crease in the second Test. Pakistan will likely be feeling confident, given their unusually strong record as visitors at Lord's, having won more Test matches there (five) than the hosts (four). Highlights on BBC Two at 7pm.

Dragons' Den
BBC One, 8pm
The Dragons jostle for investment opportunities tonight when pitched businesses that include a fibre-rich snack food, an ad agency and a gardening gadget. Most impressive, however, is a line of girls'

Gary Neville is among the dragons looking at cricket gear

and women's cricket gear offered by the two teenagers who've designed and launched them – one of whom must leave mid-pitch to do her GCSEs.

The Big Deal With Steph McGovern
BBC Two, 8pm
This kinder iteration of *The Apprentice*, in which amateurs try their hands as art dealers, moves to hipster Margate. The five remaining pairs are tasked with finding artists whose prints and limited editions they'd like to sell at a pop-up fair. The series shines a light into a hidden corner of the art world and host McGovern keeps it fun.

Ludwig
BBC One, 9pm
When a wedding ceilidh leads to murder, the cops ask Ludwig (David Mitchell) to figure out which guest could have stabbed the victim mid-dance. Meanwhile, Ludwig's sister-in-law Lucy (Anna Maxwell Martin) ruffles feathers trying to track down her ex-husband.

A House Through Time
BBC Two, 9pm
The gripping social history series reaches the 20th century to find Calton Hill had been broken up into flats and was crammed with working-class families. Genial host David Olusoga talks us through the astonishing tale of one couple whose life included emigration, hardship and bigamy. ***VP***

FILM

American Gangster *(2007)*
Film4, 9.10pm; also available on Netflix
★★★★
Denzel Washington is fantastically imperious as the 1970s Harlem drug kingpin Frank Lucas in

Denzel Washington is superb as a Harlem drugs kingpin

Ridley Scott's cocksure crime thriller, which charts Lucas's domination of the heroin market during the Vietnam War and his investigation by honest cop Richie Roberts (Russell Crowe). The film features a face-off fit for any Western, and Cuba Gooding Jr provides strong support as crime boss Nicky Barnes.

No Time to Die *(2021)*
ITV1, 10.45pm ★★★★
This was Daniel Craig's last Bond and he signed off in style. There are all the 007 requirements: spectacular set pieces, beautiful women, amazing scenery – but also some gentle updating. Despite the final scenes, we were promised that James Bond would return. And, five years later, we are still waiting, rather impatiently.

Main channels

BBC One

6.00 **am** Breakfast (S) **9.30** Morning Live: Top Tips and Best Bits (S) **10.30** Garden Rescue (R) (S) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (AD) (S)
12.15 **pm Bargain Hunt** (R) (S)
1.00 **BBC News at One; Weather** (S)
1.35 **Regional News; Weather** (S)
1.45 **BBC News at One; Weather** (S)
2.00 **Money for Nothing** (S)
2.45 **Escape to the Country** (R) (S)
3.30 **The Repair Shop** (AD) (R) (S)
4.30 **The Answer Run** (R) (S)
5.15 **Pointless** (R) (S)
6.00 **BBC News at Six; Weather** (S)
6.30 **Regional News; Weather** (S)

EastEnders

7.00 **The One Show** With Lauren Laverne and Angellica Bell (S)
7.30 **EastEnders** Alfie's surprise soon turns to chaos (AD) (S)
8.00 **Dragons' Den** The Dragons hear a pitch for a gadget for tackling water waste (AD) (S)
9.00 **Ludwig** A murder is witnessed by a wedding party (AD) (S)
10.00 **BBC News at Ten** (S)
10.30 **Regional News; Weather** (S)
10.40 **The Truth About My Murder** A murderer who used the Covid lockdown to cover up his crime (S)
11.20 The Truth About My Murder **12.00** The Truth About My Murder **12.40am** Alan Carr's Picture Slam **1.30 - 6.00am** News

BBC Two

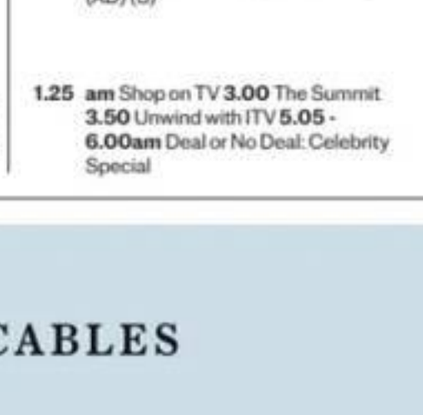
6.30 **am** Escape to the Country (R) (S) **7.15** Money for Nothing (R) (S) **8.00** Sign Zone: Celebrity MasterChef (AD) (R) (S) (SL) **9.00** News (S)
1.00 **pm Richard Osman's House of Games** (R) (S)
1.30 **The Edge** (R) (S)
2.15 **Do You Know Your Place?** (R) (S)
2.45 **Animal Park Summer** (AD) (R) (S)
3.30 **Serengeti III** (AD) (R) (S)
4.30 **Vintage Antiques Roadshow** (R) (S)
5.05 **Flog It!** (R) (S)
6.00 **Richard Osman's House of Games** (R) (S)
6.30 **Great Continental Railway Journeys** (R) (S)

Dear Evan Hansen

7.00 **Today at the Test** England v Pakistan (S)
8.00 **The Big Deal with Steph McGovern** The pairs are tested on their ability to sell to the public (AD) (S)
9.00 **A House Through Time** Charting history through the successive inhabitants of a house (AD) (S)
10.00 **Red Dwarf** Rimmer is taken prisoner by the creations of his own mind (R) (S)
10.30 **Newsnight** (S)
11.05 Emergency 24/7 **12.05am** FILM: Dear Evan Hansen (2021) Musical drama starring Ben Platt and Julianne Moore **2.10** Sign Zone: Brexit: A Very British Civil War **3.10 - 6.15am** This Is BBC Two

ITV1

6.00 **am** Good Morning Britain (S) **10.00** This Morning (S)
1.30 **pm News** (S)
1.55 **ITV News London; Weather** (S)
2.00 **Dickinson's Real Deal** (AD) (R) (S)
3.00 **Deal or No Deal** (AD) (R) (S)
4.00 **Tipping Point** (R) (S)
5.00 **The Chase** (R) (S)
6.00 **ITV News London; Weather** (S)
6.30 **News** (S)



Emmerdale

7.30 **It'll Be Alright on the Night** TV clangers featuring Joel Dommett and Romesh Ranganathan (AD) (S)
8.00 **Emmerdale** Graham continues trying to free himself (AD) (S)
8.30 **Coronation Street** Sarah fears she has placed Harry in harm's way (AD) (S)
9.00 **Beat the Chasers** Contestants from across the UK take on the six experts (R) (S)
10.00 **News** (S)
10.30 **ITV News London; Weather** (S)
10.45 **FILM: No Time to Die** (2021) James Bond thriller starring Daniel Craig (AD) (S)
1.25 **am** Shop on TV **3.00** The Summit **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05 - 6.00am** Deal or No Deal: Celebrity Special

Telegraph PUZZLES

Tea brewing?

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Telegraph • CABLES

Radio choice

Dough
Radio 4, 12.30pm

Greg Foot is back with another run of the series that looks at how emerging technologies affect everyday products, and how they might develop. This week his subject is, aptly, money and how cash has become almost a thing of the past for many since the pandemic. Is technology on the brink of pushing hard currency into the sidelines forever? And how might digital wallets, cryptocurrencies and artificial intelligence reshape the way we earn, spend and save? Meanwhile, John Wilson continues his **This Cultural Life** (*Radio 4, 12.30pm*) with another impressive guest, world-renowned pianist Dame Mitsuko Uchid.
Gerard O'Donovan

RADIO 1
FM 97.6-99.8MHZ

6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **11.00** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Matt and Jerry **3.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Going Home with Vick, Katie and Jamie on Radio 1 **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's Road to Reading and Leeds with Jack Saunders and Sian Eleri **8.00** Radio 1's Rave-Up with Arielle Free **10.00** BBC Introducing on Radio 1 Dance with Jaguar **11.00** The Residency on Radio 1 Dance **1.00am** Danny Howard's Club Mix **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Radio 1's Workout Anthems **5.00 - 6.58am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Beth Wallace

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2MHZ

6.30am The Radio 2 Breakfast Show **9.30** Mark Goodier **12.00** Tina Daheley **2.00pm** DJ Spoony **4.00** Jason Manford. Jason presents drivetime laughs, news, views and music **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist. Jo plays her favourite album tracks and musical gems rarely heard on Radio 2 **7.30** Jo Whiley. Jo chats to Joe Haddow from the Radio 2 Book Club **9.00** Dolly Parton at the BBC. A biography of the late country singer **10.00** The Good Groove with Melvin Odoom. Sitting in for Spoony **12.00** DJ Borg **3.00am** Dance Sounds of the 90s with Vernon Kay **4.00 - 6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

RADIO 3
FM 90.2-92.4MHZ

6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Sally Beamish **5.00** In Tune **6.00** BBC Proms 2026 **8.10** BBC Proms 2026. Voices of the River's Edge and the BBC Singers perform contemporary choral music **10.15** BBC Proms 2026. Music inspired by nature and landscape **11.45** 'Round Midnight **12.30 - 6.30am** Through the Night

RADIO 4
FM 92.4-94.6MHZ; LW 198KHZ

6.00am Today **9.00** Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics **9.30** The Guitar Story **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** This Cultural Life **11.45** Book of the Week: All the Beauty in the World **12.00** News **12.04pm** Scam Secrets. Advice on how to help someone who is being scammed **12.32** Dough. New series. A look at the shift from cash to digital money **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Human Intelligence. Naomi Alderman explores Fatema Mernissi's ideas on voice and power **2.00** The Archers. It's an emotional day for Robert **2.15** Drama: You and Me, Us and Them. By Lucy Catherine **3.00** Open Country. Martha Kearney spends a day on a river pilgrimage in Kent **3.27** Radio 4 Appeal. On behalf of International Animal Rescue **3.30** Word of Mouth. New series. Michael Rosen speaks to Gaelic language expert Roddy Maclean **4.00** The Briefing Room. David Aaronovitch discusses a story in the news. Last in the series **4.30** BBC Inside Science. The latest scientific research **5.00** PM. Presented by Evan Davis **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.30** Icklewick FM. Rubbish fills the streets as the bin men of Icklewick go on strike **7.00** The Archers. Keira tries to make amends **7.15** Front Row. Arts programme **8.00** NatureBang **8.15** The Media Show **9.00** Loose Ends **9.45** The Cows Are Mad **9.59** Weather **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Mr Sidhu's Post Office **11.00** Radical **11.30** Everything Is Fake and Nobody Cares **12.00** News and Weather **12.30am** Book of the Week: All the Beauty in the World **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service **5.00** News Summary **5.04** The Briefing Room **5.32** Weather **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45 - 6.00am** Farming Today

RADIO 5 LIVE
MW 693 & 909KHZ

6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Rima Ahmed **11.00** Gordon Smart **2.00pm** Nick Watt **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport. Katie Smith builds up to Chelsea v Luton Town in the Carabao Cup **7.30** Football. Chelsea v Luton Town (kick-off 7.30pm) **10.00** Laura McGhie **1.00am** Joel Mitchell **5.00 - 6.00am** Wake Up to Money

CLASSIC FM
FM 99.9-101.9MHZ

6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker **10.00** Aled Jones **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings with Zeb Soanes. Zeb hosts an evening of the most relaxing music **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00 - 6.30am** Early Breakfast

WORLD SERVICE
DIGITAL ONLY

8.00am News **8.06** The Inquiry **8.30** Business Daily **8.50** Witness History **9.00** The Newsroom **9.30** The Documentary: LA: Rising from the Ashes **10.00** News **10.06** The Media Show **10.30** Happy News **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Global Story **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** The Food Chain **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** The Inquiry **3.30** Business Daily **3.50** World Business Express **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** The Documentary: LA: Rising from the Ashes **8.30** BBC Inside Science **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** The Inquiry **10.30** The Food Chain **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** World Business Report **12.00** News **12.06am** The Media Show **12.30** Happy News **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** The Global Story **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Tech Life **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** Heart and Soul **5.00 - 8.00am** Newsday

RADIO 4 EXTRA
DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Five Red Herrings **6.30** Kill the Pharaoh! **7.00** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful **7.30** The Burkiss Way **8.00** The Train at Platform 4 **8.30** Underland **8.45** Breathing Underwater **9.00** Icklewick FM **9.30** Human Hosts **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Great Lives **10.30** Descendents **11.00** Five Red Herrings **11.30** Kill the Pharaoh! **12.00** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful **12.30pm** The Burkiss Way **1.00** The Train at Platform 4 **1.30** Underland **1.45** Breathing Underwater **2.00** Dilemma **2.30** Snap **3.00** The Governor's Consort **4.00** Great Lives **4.30** Descendents **5.00** Five Red Herrings **5.30** Kill the Pharaoh! **6.00** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful **6.30** The Burkiss Way **7.00** The Train at Platform 4 **7.30** Underland **7.45** Breathing Underwater **8.00** Dilemma **8.30** Snap **9.00** The Governor's Consort **10.00** Icklewick FM **10.30** A Look Back at the Nineties **10.55** The Comedy Club Interview **11.00** Fresh from the Fringe **11.30** Sophie Willan's Guide to Normality **11.45** What's the Story, Ashley Storrie? **12.00** Great Lives **12.30am** Descendents **1.00** Five Red Herrings **1.30** Kill the Pharaoh! **2.00** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful **2.30** The Burkiss Way **3.00** The Train at Platform 4 **3.30** Underland **3.45** Breathing Underwater **4.00** Dilemma **4.30** Snap **5.00 - 6.00am** The Governor's Consort

Today's television

FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

Channel 4

6.30 **am** The King of Queens (AD) (R) (S) **6.55** The King of Queens (AD) (R) (S) **7.20** The King of Queens (AD) (R) (S) **7.45** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **9.10** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **9.40** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.10** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.40** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **11.10** Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back (AD) (R) (S)
12.05 **pm Channel 4 News** (S)
12.10 **Find It, Fix It, Flog It** (AD) (R) (S)
1.10 **The Great House Giveaway** (R) (S)
2.10 **Countdown** (S)
3.00 **A Place in the Sun** (R) (S)
4.00 **The Great B&B Challenge** (R) (S)
5.00 **Chateau DIY** (AD) (R) (S)
6.00 **American Pickers** (R) (S)

Renovation Rescue

7.00 **Channel 4 News** (S)
8.00 **Renovation Rescue** A couple in West Yorkshire try to finish their eight-year renovation (AD) (S)
9.00 **The Murder Detective** The team recover a gun that may be linked to Lyra's murder (AD) (S)
10.00 **The Never Ending Murder** (AD) (S)
11.00 The Never Ending Murder **12.00** Crime Scene Cleaners **12.55am** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.45** Secret Lives of Gypsy Wives **2.40** FILM: Underwater (2020) Sci-fi thriller starring Kristen Stewart **4.15** A Place in the Sun **4.40** Sunday Brunch **4.55** Couples Come Dine with Me **5.50 - 6.30am** Countdown

Channel 5

6.00 **am** Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine (S) **11.30** Storm & Alexis (S)
12.45 **pm 5 News at Lunchtime** (S)
12.50 **Matt Allwright** (S)
2.20 **FILM: To Kill a Stepfather** (2023, TVM) Thriller starring Alex Camacho (S)
4.00 **Castle** (S)
4.55 **Love Nature** (R) (S)
5.00 **5 News with Dan Walker** (S)
6.00 **Motorhoming with Merton & Webster** (R) (S)
6.55 **5 News Update** (S)

Benidorm Is Murder

7.00 **Cycling: Vuelta a España 2026** Action from stage six (S)
7.55 **5 News Update** (S)
8.00 **The Yorkshire Vet** Matt Smith tests a couple of badger cubs for TB (S)
9.00 **Benidorm Is Murder** Dennis and Rosa investigate the death of a man after a jellyfish incident (AD) (S)
10.00 **Killer at the Crime Scene** Examining the murder of neuroscientist Autumn Klein (S)
11.05 Fatal First Dates **12.05am** Street Cops: Catching the Yobs **1.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **2.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **2.50** Castle **3.40** Friends **4.05** Friends **4.30** Amazing Railway Adventures with Nick Knowles **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Paw Patrol **5.45 - 6.00am** Mixmups

Sky Arts

FV 36 FS 143 SKY 822 VIRGIN 123

6.00 **am** Classic FM Live: Classical Anthems (S) **8.00** Artist of the Year: Masterclass (AD) (S) **8.30** Artist of the Year: Masterclass (AD) (S) **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) (S) **9.30** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) (S) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents (S) **10.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents (S) **11.00** Discovering: Donald Sutherland (S)
12.00 **Dickens in Italy with David Harewood** (S)
1.00 **pm Tales of the Unexpected** (AD) (S)
1.30 **Tales of the Unexpected** (AD) (S)
2.00 **The Alfred Hitchcock Hour** (S)
3.00 **Stories from Tate Britain** (S)
4.00 **Discovering: Dirk Bogarde** (S)
5.00 **Portrait Artist of the Year 2023** (AD) (S)
6.00 **Tales of the Unexpected** (S)
6.30 **Tales of the Unexpected** (S)

Ian Fleming and the Curse of Bond

7.00 **Alfred Hitchcock Presents** (S)
7.30 **Alfred Hitchcock Presents** Frank Partridge and his wife plot to cheat their life insurance company (S)
8.00 **Discovering: Richard Attenborough** The life and career of the Oscar-winning director (AD) (S)
9.00 **Spymasters: The Great Spy Writers** Cold War books by Fredrick Forsyth, Alistair MacLean and John le Carré (AD) (S)
10.00 **Ian Fleming and the Curse of Bond** A look at the enduring appeal of 007 (S)
11.45 The Directors **12.45am** The Unstoppable Shirley MacLaine **2.00** I Am Patrick Swayze **4.00** A Play in a Day **5.00 - 6.00am** Dickens in Italy with David Harewood

U&Drama

FV 20 FS 158 SKY 143 VIRGIN 138

6.00 **am** Teleshopping **7.15** The Bill (S) **8.10** Doctors (S) **8.45** Doctors (S) **9.20** Classic Holby City (S) **10.40** Casualty (AD) (S) **11.40** The Bill (S)
12.40 **pm Classic EastEnders** (S)
1.20 **Classic EastEnders** (S)
2.00 **Classic Neighbours** (S)
2.35 **Classic Neighbours** (S)
3.05 **Whitstable Pearl** (AD) (S)
4.10 **Kingdom** (S)
5.20 **As Time Goes By** (S)
6.00 **Last of the Summer Wine** (S)
6.35 **Last of the Summer Wine** (S)

The Marlow Murder Club

7.20 **Last of the Summer Wine** Compo tries out Seymour's latest invention (S)
8.00 **The Marlow Murder Club** When a man is killed at her university reunion, Becks finds herself on the wrong side of an investigation (AD) (S)
9.00 **The Marlow Murder Club** As Judith and Suzie work with the police to find the killer, tensions rise among Becks' friends in the house (AD) (S)
10.00 **New Tricks** The team investigates the death of an elderly woman (AD) (S)
11.20 Luther **12.40am** Lovejoy **1.50** Sister Boniface Mysteries **2.50** You're Killing Me **4.00 - 6.00am** Teleshopping

Talking Pictures TV

FV 82 FS 306 SKY 324 VIRGIN 445

6.00 **am** FILM: Lily of Killarney (1934, b/w) Musical starring John Garrick (S) **7.35** FILM: Father's Little Dividend (1951, b/w) Comedy sequel starring Spencer Tracy (S) **9.15** FILM: Kill Me Tomorrow (1957, b/w) Drama with Lois Maxwell (S) **10.50** FILM: The Leather Boys (1964, b/w) Drama with Rita Tushingham (S)
1.00 **pm The Adventures of Sir Lancelot** (S)
1.30 **The Duchess of Duke Street** (S)
2.35 **FILM: Operation Diplomat** (1953, b/w) Crime drama starring Guy Rolfe (S)
3.55 **Cinebox Memories**
4.00 **That's My Boy** (S)
4.35 **FILM: Train of Events** (1949, b/w) Comedy drama anthology starring Jack Warner (S)
6.20 **Strange But True** (S)
6.55 **The Brothers** (S)

Frankenstein and the Monster from Hell

8.00 **Mark Saber** (S)
8.30 **The Wheeltappers and Shunters Social Club** Wilma Reading performs I'll Follow You My Love (S)
9.20 **FILM: Frankenstein and the Monster from Hell** (1973) Hammer horror starring Peter Cushing (S)
11.15 FILM: Albert RN (1953, b/w) Fact-based Second World War drama starring Anthony Steel **1.00am** FILM: Twilight's Last Gleaming (1977) Thriller starring Burt Lancaster **3.50** 1960s London-Glimpses **4.00** Burke's Law **5.00 - 6.00am** The Man from UNCLE

Film4

FV 14 FS 200 SKY 855 VIRGIN 428

11.00 **am** FILM: Wonder Park (2019) Animated family adventure with the voice of Mila Kunis (AD) (S)
12.45 **pm FILM: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs** (2009) Animated comedy with the voice of Bill Hader (S)
2.35 **FILM: The Story of Robin Hood and His Merrie Men** (1952) Adventure starring Richard Todd (S)
4.15 **FILM: The Straight Story** (1999) David Lynch's drama starring Richard Farnsworth (S)

Hidden Figures

6.30 **FILM: Hidden Figures** (2016) Female African-American mathematicians overcome prejudice as they work on the US space programme. Fact-based drama starring Taraji P Henson and Octavia Spencer (AD) (S)
9.00 **American Gangster Special** Preview of Ridley Scott's crime thriller
9.10 **FILM: American Gangster** (2007) Fact-based crime drama about Seventies drug kingpin Frank Lucas and the cop who tried to bring him down in the face of police corruption. Starring Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe (AD) (S)
12.20 **am** FILM: Honest Thief (2020) Crime thriller starring Liam Neeson **2.20 - 4.00am** FILM: Wildfire (2021) Drama starring Nora-Jane Noone and Nika McGuigan

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More channels

FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

BBC Four

FV 9 FS 173 SKY 116 VIRGIN 108

7.00 **pm** Villages by the Sea
7.30 Canal Boat Diaries
8.00 Vasa: The Ghost Ship
9.00 **FILM:** Jaws (1975) Steven Spielberg's thriller starring Roy Scheider
11.00 Talking Pictures
11.45 **FILM:** Jaws 2 (1978) Thriller sequel starring Roy Scheider
1.35 **am** Canal Boat Diaries
2.05 Vasa: The Ghost Ship
3.05 **- 3.35am** Villages by the Sea

ITV3

FV 10 FS 115 SKY 119 VIRGIN 117

11.30 **am** Heartbeat
12.35 **pm** Heartbeat
1.40 Midsomer Murders
3.40 Classic Emmerdale
4.10 Classic Emmerdale
5.15 Classic Coronation Street
5.50 Heartbeat
6.55 Heartbeat
8.00 Vera
10.00 Lewis
11.50 Inspector Morse
2.00 **am** George and Mildred
2.30 **- 6.00am** Teleshopping

ITV4

FV 26 FS 117 SKY 120 VIRGIN 118

11.15 **am** Robin of Sherwood
12.15 **pm** Magnum, PI
1.20 Magnum, PI
2.20 The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes
3.30 Boon
4.35 The Professionals
5.40 Minder
6.45 Sharpe
9.00 All Elite Wrestling: All In
3.45 **- 4.00am** Unwind with ITV

More4

FV 18 FS 124 SKY 136 VIRGIN 147

11.35 **am** Four in a Bed
12.10 **pm** Four in a Bed
12.40 Come Dine with Me
1.10 Come Dine with Me
1.40 Come Dine with Me
2.15 Come Dine with Me
2.50 Come Dine with Me
3.20 Four in a Bed
3.50 Four in a Bed
4.20 Four in a Bed
4.50 Four in a Bed
5.20 Four in a Bed
5.50 Car S.O.S
7.55 Grand Designs
9.00 24 Hours in A&E
11.05 999: On the Front Line
12.10 **am** 999: On the Front Line
1.15 24 Hours in A&E
3.25 **- 3.55am** The Perfect Pitch

U&Gold

SKY 110 VIRGIN 124

11.50 **am** Ever Decreasing Circles
12.25 **pm** Porridge
1.00 Keeping Up Appearances
1.40 Dad's Army
2.20 The Green Green Grass
3.00 Are You Being Served?
3.40 Ever Decreasing Circles
4.20 Dad's Army
5.00 Last of the Summer Wine
6.20 Keeping Up Appearances
7.00 Porridge
7.40 Dad's Army
8.20 Are You Being Served?
9.00 The Office
9.35 Fawlty Towers
10.20 Not Going Out
11.00 Mrs Brown's Boys
11.35 The Office
12.15 **-1.00am** Fawlty Towers

U&Yesterday

FV 27 FS 159 SKY 155 VIRGIN 129

Noon Antiques Roadshow
1.00 **pm** Antiques Roadshow
2.00 Bangers & Cash
3.00 Bangers & Cash
4.00 Secret Nazi Bases
5.00 The World at War
6.00 Antiques Roadshow
7.00 Seven Worlds, One Planet
8.00 Bangers & Cash
9.00 Dream Car Fixers
10.00 Bangers & Cash
11.00 Bangers & Cash
12.00 Bangers & Cash
1.00 **am** Find It, Fix It, Flog It
2.00 Abandoned Engineering
3.00 **- 6.10am** Teleshopping

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108

11.40 **am** The Last of Us
12.40 **pm** Homicide: Life on the Street
1.30 Homicide: Life on the Street
2.20 Billions
3.20 Billions
4.25 The White Lotus
5.30 The White Lotus
6.35 House of the Dragon
7.45 House of the Dragon
9.00 Fightland
10.05 Fightland
11.10 Fightland
12.15 **am FILM:** Nightcrawler (2014) Crime drama starring Jake Gyllenhaal
2.20 House of the Dragon
3.30 **- 4.40am** House of the Dragon

U&Dave

11.20am Yukon Gold **12.20pm** Top Gear **2.20** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing **3.00** Speed with Guy Martin: F1 Challenge **4.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British **5.00** Rick Stein's Fresh Food **7.00** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing **7.40** Would I Lie to You? **9.00** Hit Point. Leo knows that he, Carter and Dylan must frame someone else for the murder **10.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **11.00** Taskmaster **12.00** Mock the Week **12.40am** Would I Lie to You? **2.00** Hit Point **2.50** Richard Osman's House of Games **3.30-4.00am** Parks and Recreation

ITV2

11.10am Charmed **12.10pm** Deal or No Deal **1.10** Celebrity Supermarket Sweep **2.10** Wheel of Fortune **3.10** The Only Way Is Essex **4.10** The Real Housewives of Potomac **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.00** Wheel of Fortune **8.00** The 1% Club Rollover **9.00** Romesh Ranganathan's Parents' Evening **10.00** Changing Ends. Alan tries to write about the man of his dreams **10.35** Family Guy **11.35** American Dad! **12.35am** Bob's Burgers **1.30** Deal or No Deal **2.20** Unwind with ITV **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

Challenge

11.00am Celebrity Antiques Road Trip **12.15pm** Lily Savage's Blankety Blank **1.00** Classic Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? **2.00** Bridge of Lies **3.00** The Chase **4.00** Celebrity Antiques Road Trip **5.15** All Star Family Fortunes **6.00** Tenable **7.00** Beat the Chasers **8.00** The Chase **10.00** The Chase Celebrity Special **11.00** Bullseye **12.00** Bridge of Lies **1.00am** The Chase **2.00** The Chase Celebrity Special **3.00-4.00am** The Chase

Quest

Noon Outback Opal Hunters **1.00pm** The Repair Shop **2.00** Shed and Buried **3.00** Shed and Buried: Classic Cars **4.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **5.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **7.00** Antiques Road Trip **8.00** Outback Truckers **9.00** Outback Opal Hunters **10.00** The Repair Shop **11.00** How Do They Do It? **1.00am** Salvage Hunters **3.00-4.00am** Salvage Hunters: The Restorers

Discovery

Noon Building Off the Grid **1.00pm** Dr Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet **3.00** How It's Made **5.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **9.00** Naked and Afraid: Global Showdown **11.00** Expedition Files **12.00** Deadliest Catch **1.00am** Naked and Afraid: Global Showdown **3.00-4.00am** Gold Divers

PBS America

Noon The Wheelchair President **1.00pm** Weathered: Earth's Extremes **1.50** The World After Stonehenge **2.55** The Normans **4.10** The Wheelchair President **6.20** The World After Stonehenge **7.30** The Normans **8.50** The Wheelchair President **10.50** Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland **12.00** The Normans **1.15am** Weathered: Earth's Extremes **2.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

Sky History

Noon The Last Hunt for Nazi Gold **1.00pm** Alone **2.00** Pawn Stars **6.00** American Pickers **7.00** Forged in Fire **8.00** History's Most Shocking **9.00** Alone **10.00** Discovered by Disaster **12.00** Secrets in the Jungle **1.50am** History's Most Shocking **2.50** Alone **3.40-4.25am** Pawn Stars

Sky Documentaries

Noon Barbie Uncovered: A Dreamhouse Divided **1.50pm** My Icon: Heather Watson **2.00 FILM:** Missile from the East (2021) A motorcycle racer who risked his life defecting to West Germany **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Matthew Broderick **5.55** Chimp Crazy **7.00** I Am Raquel Welch **8.45** My Icon: Denise Lewis **9.00** My Mom Jayne **11.00 FILM:** Val (2021) Documentary focusing on the daily life of actor Val Kilmer **1.00-5.00am** Escobar by Escobar

Sky One

Noon Africa's Hunters **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 **3.00** S.W.A.T. **5.00** The Simpsons **6.00** Rob & Romesh vs Cricket: South Africa **7.00** The Simpsons **8.00** Rob & Romesh vs K-Pop **9.00** An Idiot Abroad 3 **10.00 FILM:** Homefront (2013) Crime thriller starring Jason Statham, James Franco and Winona Ryder **12.00** The Paper **1.00am** Grimm **2.00** Evil **3.00-4.00am** Hawaii Five-0

Great! Mystery

11.11am FILM: Mystery 101: Words Can Kill (2019) Thriller starring Jill Wagner **12.05pm** Good News on GREAT! Extra **12.15** In Plain Sight **2.00** Castle **3.00** Diagnosis Murder **5.00** Murder, She Wrote **7.00** Castle **8.00** Unforgettable **9.00** In Plain Sight **10.00 FILM:** Mystery 101: Dead Talk (2019) Thriller starring Jill Wagner **10.56** Good News on GREAT! **11.01 FILM:** Mystery 101: Dead Talk (2019) Thriller starring Jill Wagner **11.55 FILM:** Family History Mysteries: Buried Past (2023) Thriller starring Janel Parrish **12.51am** Good News on GREAT! **12.56 FILM:** Family History Mysteries: Buried Past (2023) **1.50 FILM:** Nowhere To Be Found (2019) **3.25-5.00am FILM:** Stealing Paradise (2011)

Sky Cinema Premiere

10.40am Song Sung Blue (2025) Drama starring Hugh Jackman **12.55pm** Five Nights At Freddy's 2 (2025) Horror sequel starring Josh Hutcherson **2.45** Heretic (2024) Horror starring Hugh Grant **4.40** Twinless (2025) Dark comedy starring Dylan O'Brien **6.25** Normal (2026) Action comedy starring Bob Odenkirk **8.00** Five Nights At Freddy's 2 (2025) Horror sequel starring Josh Hutcherson **10.00** Heretic (2024) Horror starring Hugh Grant **12.00** Signal One (2026) Sci-fi thriller starring Isabelle Fuhrman **1.45am** Twinless (2025) Dark comedy starring Dylan O'Brien **3.30-5.10am** Normal (2026) Action comedy starring Bob Odenkirk

Sky Sports Main Event

10.00am Live Test Cricket. England v Pakistan **6.30pm** Live PGA Tour Golf. The Tour Championship **7.15** Live EFL Cup. Chelsea v Luton Town (kick-off 7.30pm) **10.00** Live PGA Tour Golf. The Tour Championship **11.00** Live US Open Tennis. The Stars of Stars of the Open exhibition **2.00-6.00am** Live Tennis. The ATP Winston-Salem Open and WTA Monterrey Open

Sky Sports Premier League

Noon Transfer Talk **1.00pm** Premier League Stories **1.30** Netbusters **2.00** Premier League Years **4.00** Premier League Stories **4.30** Netbusters **5.00** The Premier League Show **7.00** The Transfer Show **8.00** The Big Interview **8.30** Premier League Stories **9.00** Premier League Review **10.00** The Big Interview **10.30** Premier League Stories **11.00** Premier League Years **1.00am** PL Retro **3.00-4.00am** PL Greatest Games

TNT Sports 1

1.30pm Live: La Vuelta Men. Coverage of stage six of the Grand Tour race **5.00** Live Uefa Champions League. Coverage of the draw for the league phase **6.00** Groundbreaking **6.15** MLB Highlights **7.15** Live MLB. St Louis Cardinals v Baltimore Orioles (start-time 7.15pm) **10.00** Hard Knocks: Training Camp with the Seattle Seahawks **11.00** MLB Classic **11.15** MLB Highlights **12.15am** Live MLB. Atlanta Braves v Los Angeles Dodgers (start-time 12.15am) **3.00** MLB Plays of the Week **3.30-4.30am** UFC: The Ultimate Fighter

BBC News

Noon BBC News Now **2.00pm** BBC News Now **2.30** Business Today **2.45** BBC News Now **3.00** Verified Live **4.30** Business Today **4.45** Verified Live **5.30** BBC News **6.30** The World Today **8.00** The Context USA **9.00** The Context **10.00** BBC News at Ten **10.30** Newsnight **11.00** BBC World News America **12.00** BBC News **12.30am** Newscast **1.00** BBC News **1.30** Tech Now **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Business Today **2.45** BBC Sport **3.00** Newsday **3.30** Business Today **3.45-4.00am** BBC Sport

GB News

Noon Good Afternoon Britain **3.00pm** Martin Daubney **6.00** Dewbs & Co **7.00** GBN Tonight **8.00** Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation **9.00** Patrick Christys Tonight **11.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition **12.00** The Late Show Live **3.00-5.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay

Sky News

Noon Sky News Today **5.00pm** The News Hour with Mark Austin **7.00** Sky News **10.00** The Wrap with Anna Botting **12.00-6.00am** Sky News

Variations

Northern Ireland

BBC One: 10.40pm The Crime I Can't Forget **11.30** The Truth About My Murder **12.15am** The Truth About My Murder **12.55** The Truth About My Murder **1.35 - 6.00am** BBC News
BBC Two: No variations
UTV: No variations

Scotland

BBC One: 7.00 - 7.30pm River City **12.40am** Scotcast **1.10** Alan Carr's Picture Slam **2.00 - 6.00am** BBC News
BBC Scotland: 7.00pm Reporting Scotland: News at Seven **7.30** Hidden Lives **8.00** Beechgrove Garden **8.30** Our Lives: Speed Without Limits **9.00** Martin Compston's Scottish Fling **9.30** Martin Compston's Scottish Fling **10.00** Scot Squad **10.30** Edinburgh Unlocked **11.00** Scotcast **11.30** Growing Up Scottish **midnight** Close
STV: 9.00 - 10.00pm Secrets & Lies: STV Player Presents **3.50 - 5.05am** Unwind with STV

Wales

BBC One: 12.40am Buried with Michael Sheen **1.40 - 6.00am** BBC News
BBC Two: No variations
ITV1 Wales: No variations

ITV1 Regions

No variations

S4C

6.00am Cyw **12.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Cais Quinnell **12.30** Heno **1.00** Codi Hwyl **1.30** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Am Dro! **4.00** Awr Fawr: Caban Banana Gareth **4.05** Awr Fawr: Chwedlau Tinga Tinga **4.20** Awr Fawr: Help Llaw **4.35** Awr Fawr: Mojo Swoptops **4.50** Awr Fawr: Annibendod **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Cynefin **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm **8.25** Gwlad y Basg: Gwilym Bowen Rhys **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Cyfrinachau'r Great Escape **10.00** Tacls'r Ty **10.30 - 11.35pm** Radio Fa'ma

Weather & Crosswords

Forecast

General situation

A band of rain and thunderstorms will lift northward across England and Wales today. Some brightening in the southeast late. Bright intervals and showers in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

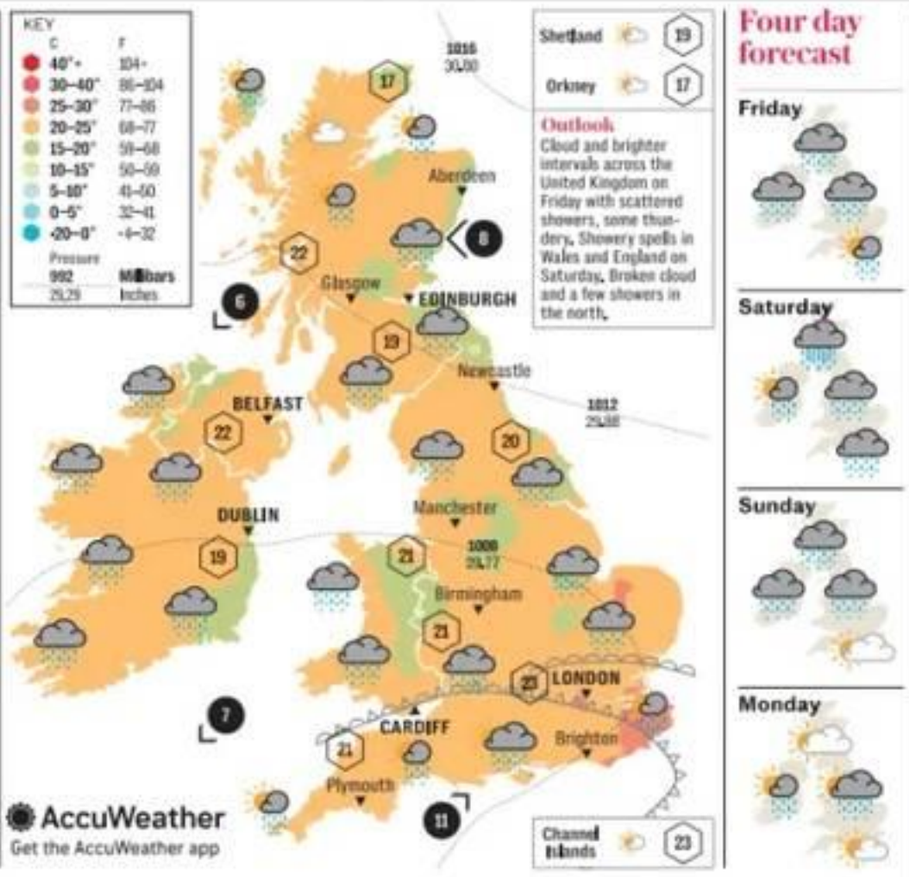
♦London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands: Rainy spells, some thundery, then brighter breaks later today. Max 62-77F (17-25C). A light to gentle S to SW wind. Clear periods and mainly dry tonight. Min 52-60F (11-16C).

♦NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England: Periods of rain, some thundery, later today and tonight. Max 60-75F (16-24C). A light to gentle E to SE wind. Min 50-60F (10-16C).

♦Wales: Showers, some thundery, today. Max 57-70F (14-21C). A light variable wind. A shower tonight. Min 50-60F (10-16C).

♦N Ireland: Clear periods and showers today and tonight. Max 57-73F (14-23C). A gentle NE wind. Min 50-58F (10-15C).

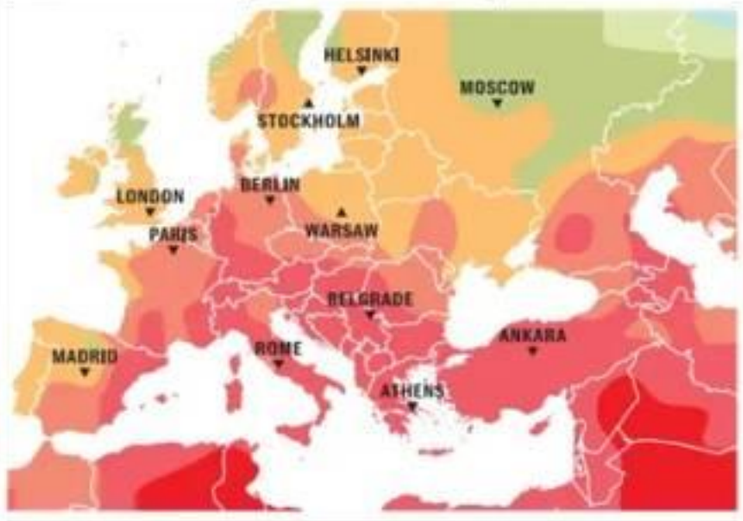
♦SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland: Clear spells today and tonight; a few showers in the south. Max 52-75F (11-24C). A light to moderate E to NE wind. Min 45-58F (7-15C).



Four day forecast

European readings Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm

	Max °C	Min °C	Daytime weather
Akrotiri	32	24	p/cldy
Alicante	34	25	sunny
Amsterdam	26	13	p/cldy
Athens	38	25	sunny
Barcelona	31	24	p/cldy
Bari	32	26	sunny
Belgrade	32	20	sunny
Benidorm	32	25	sunny
Bergen	23	10	sunny
Berlin	23	14	sunny
Biarritz	34	19	sunny
Bodrum	39	22	sunny
Bordeaux	34	19	sunny
Brest	27	17	cloudy
Brussels	26	14	p/cldy
Bucharest	30	18	showers
Budapest	30	20	sunny
Cagliari	35	24	sunny
Chamonix	24	14	p/cldy
Copenhagen	22	15	p/cldy
Corfu	34	26	sunny
Cork	20	15	cloudy
Corsica	33	22	p/cldy
Crete	33	24	sunny
Dublin	21	15	showers
Dubrovnik	31	25	sunny
Faro	25	18	showers
Florence	34	21	p/cldy
Frankfurt	27	16	p/cldy
Funchal	25	20	showers
Gdansk	18	10	sunny
Geneva	27	17	sunny
Gibraltar	27	21	p/cldy
Hamburg	26	12	sunny
Helsinki	21	10	p/cldy
Innsbruck	27	14	sunny
Istanbul	31	22	sunny
Kyiv	24	11	p/cldy
La Rochelle	33	18	sunny
Lisbon	23	18	showers
Locarno	27	15	storms
Luxembourg	25	12	storms
Madrid	30	15	p/cldy
Majorca	35	24	showers
Malaga	33	20	sunny
Malta	41	28	sunny
Marseille	32	21	sunny
Menorca	32	24	sunny
Milan	30	21	p/cldy
Monaco	28	22	p/cldy
Moscow	16	13	showers
Munich	28	13	sunny
Naples	34	25	sunny
Nice	28	23	p/cldy
Nicosia	38	20	sunny
Oporto	21	17	rain
Oslo	23	10	sunny
Palermo	34	28	sunny
Paris	29	19	p/cldy
Perpignan	32	21	windy
Prague	22	14	p/cldy
Reykjavik	12	7	cloudy
Rhodes	33	25	sunny
Riga	19	9	sunny
Rome	33	23	sunny
Saint Malo	27	15	storms
Salzburg	27	15	p/cldy
Santander	32	17	sunny
Santiago/Comp.	19	14	rain
Sofia	31	17	p/cldy
St. Petersburg	20	10	sunny
Stockholm	22	4	sunny
Strasbourg	27	15	p/cldy
Tenerife	28	20	windy
Tirana	34	27	sunny
Toulouse	32	20	windy
Valencia	32	24	p/cldy
Venice	28	20	sunny
Vienna	28	17	sunny
Vigo	20	17	showers
Vilnius	20	7	p/cldy
Warsaw	23	10	sunny
Zagreb	32	19	sunny
Zurich	29	16	p/cldy



Nature Notes

Trust petition for climate resilience

The National Trust is pleading with ministers for better climate resilience as it is faces a hay shortage because grass has not grown in the drought.

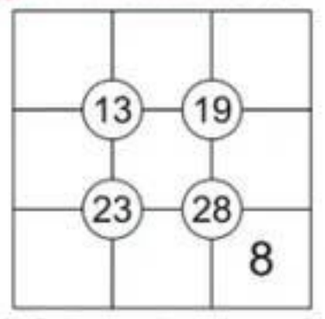
Grain yields are down 25% and straw has fallen from 200 bales to just 60 at the Wimpole Estate in Cambridgshire, the trust's largest in-hand organic farm with 3,000 acres.

Dave Hassall, Wimpole's farm and countryside manager, said: "We're already using winter feed because summer growth simply hasn't happened."

It is the third time in five years Wimpole has faced severe drought and is adapting with tree planting, more rainwater storage, conservation grazing and selective breeding.

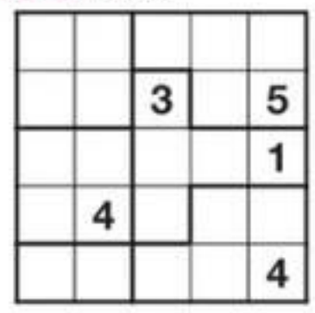
The National Trust is calling on the Government to make climate resilience a national mission, to invest in infrastructure and to support fire fighters. Sign the trust's petition at nationaltrust.org.uk/wildfire-petition.

Sujiko® MODERATE NO 5469



To play Sujiko, enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the total in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding squares. Today's solutions appear tomorrow.

Suguru NO 2557



The aim of Suguru is to fill the grid so that no same digit is touching. A two-cell outlined block contains the digits 1 and 2; a three-cell block contains 1, 2, 3; and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally.

Yesterday's solutions:

Sujiko 5468: 854 / 632 / 179

Suguru 2556:

1	2	3	1	2
3	4	5	4	3
2	1	2	1	2
4	3	1	2	4
3	2	1	2	1

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British readings Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm · *estimated readings

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min °C	Daytime weather
Aberdeen	0.9*	0.00	18* 12*	cloudy
Aberystwyth	2.9*	0.18	24* 17*	showers
Antrim	0.1*	0.27	19* 14*	showers
Aviemore	3.5*	0.00	17* 11*	cloudy
Barnstaple	5.5*	0.02	24* 17*	showers
Barrow-in-Furns.	0.0*	0.23	23* 16*	showers
Basingstoke	6.2*	0.00	27* 15*	cloudy
Bedford	2.5*	0.25	26* 16*	showers
Belfast	3.6*	0.07	20* 16*	p/cloudy
Berwick	3.5*	0.02	19* 14*	cloudy
Birmingham	11.0*	0.02	25* 16*	sunny
Bodmin	2.3*	0.08	19* 16*	cloudy
Bournemouth	5.3*	0.01	24* 15*	cloudy
Braintree	3.2*	0.13	25* 17*	showers
Brecon	3.2*	0.16	23* 16*	showers
Bridlington	9.5*	0.00	23* 16*	p/cloudy
Brighton	5.8*	0.05	24* 17*	showers
Bristol	2.0*	0.11	26* 16*	showers
Camborne	4.6*	0.11	21* 16*	showers
Cardiff	4.9*	0.04	25* 17*	cloudy
Carlisle	2.7*	0.00	23* 14*	cloudy
Catterick	1.6*	0.00	25* 13*	cloudy
Cheltenham	4.3*	0.13	27* 16*	cloudy
Chester	1.6*	0.18	24* 16*	showers
Coventry	3.8*	0.07	26* 16*	showers
Doncaster	5.8*	0.00	24* 16*	cloudy
Dover	5.1*	0.20	23* 17*	showers
Dundee	2.7*	0.00	18* 14*	cloudy
Eastbourne	3.7*	0.05	26* 17*	cloudy
Edinburgh	2.9*	0.00	19* 14*	cloudy
Epsom	3.7*	0.06	26* 17*	showers
Falmouth	3.5*	0.21	20* 16*	showers
Farnborough	3.7*	0.05	27* 16*	showers
Fort William	0.3*	0.00	19* 10*	cloudy
Glasgow	7.0*	0.00	20* 14*	p/cloudy
Great Malvern	2.8*	0.04	26* 16*	cloudy
Grimsby	7.5*	0.00	22* 17*	p/cloudy
Guernsey	4.8*	0.00	23* 16*	cloudy
Hereford	1.1*	0.10	26* 16*	showers
High Wycombe	4.3*	0.02	26* 16*	showers
Holyhead	0.6*	0.01	22* 17*	showers
Huddersfield	0.6*	0.06	22* 14*	showers
Ipswich	4.7*	0.02	23* 16*	showers
Isle of Man	7.8*	0.06	21* 17*	showers
Isle of Skye	4.4*	0.00	19* 12*	cloudy
Isle of Wight	7.5*	0.24	26* 16*	p/cloudy
Isles of Scilly	4.2*	0.12	26* 15*	showers
Jersey	7.9*	0.03	27* 17*	showers
Keswick	1.0*	0.38	22* 15*	showers
Kew Gardens	2.7*	0.10	26* 17*	showers
King's Lynn	9.1*	0.00	26* 16*	p/cloudy
Leeds	0.8*	0.02	24* 15*	showers
Leek	1.5*	0.25	23* 16*	showers
Leominster	1.2*	0.04	25* 16*	cloudy
Lincoln	3.9*	0.04	26* 15*	showers
Liverpool	10.0*	0.00	24* 16*	p/cloudy
London	2.8*	0.21	27* 18*	cloudy
Manchester	8.0*	0.18	24* 17*	showers
Middlesbrough	7.2*	0.00	26* 13*	p/cloudy
Newcastle	2.9*	0.00	21* 15*	cloudy
Newquay	2.3*	0.17	21* 17*	cloudy
Nottingham	0.8*	0.40	24* 16*	showers
Orkney	6.4*	0.00	17* 11*	p/cloudy
Oxford	3.1*	0.01	27* 16*	cloudy
Perth	3.3*	0.00	18* 13*	cloudy
Peterborough	3.1*	0.00	25* 14*	cloudy
Plymouth	4.2*	0.04	21* 17*	cloudy
Portsmouth*	6.6*	0.11*	26* 16*	showers
Prestwick	10.1*	0.00	21* 13*	p/cloudy
Ramsgate	4.6*	0.14	23* 17*	showers
Rhyl	0.2*	0.21	22* 16*	showers
Rugby	3.1*	0.31	26* 16*	showers
Salisbury	5.3*	0.07	27* 15*	showers
Scunthorpe	6.9*	0.00	24* 16*	p/cloudy
Sheffield	5.8	0.00	24 16	cloudy
Shetland	8.6*	0.00	16* 13*	p/cloudy
Shrewsbury	1.1*	0.28	25* 16*	showers
Skegness	6.8*	0.00	23* 17*	windy
Southampton	9.5*	0.02	27* 13*	p/cloudy
Southend-on-Sea	2.8*	0.44	24* 17*	showers
Stockport	0.6*	0.32	24* 17*	showers
Stornoway	11.8*	0.00	19* 13*	sunny
Swansea	6.0*	0.21	23* 17*	p/cloudy
Swindon	3.5*	0.06	26* 16*	showers
Thirsk	2.0*	0.00	25* 15*	cloudy
Tiree	4.8*	0.14	20* 14*	showers
Weymouth	6.2*	0.04	24* 16*	p/cloudy
Whitehaven	0.6*	0.24	22* 16*	showers
Windermere	1.0*	0.15	22* 15*	showers
Worcester	2.2*	0.11	26* 16*	showers
Yeovil	5.5*	0.14	26* 17*	showers
York	6.2*	0.00	25* 16*	p/cloudy

World readings

	Max °C	Min °C	Daytime weather
Accra	30	24	p/cldy
Addis Ababa	24	14	rain
Adelaide	15	6	p/cldy
Alexandria	31	24	haze
Algiers	40	24	p/cldy
Amman	35	25	sunny
Anchorage	13	9	sunny
Ankara	33	16	sunny
Ascension Is.	27	23	showers
Auckland	17	9	p/cldy
Baghdad	48	33	haze
Bahamas	32	24	storms
Bahrain	41	34	haze
Bamako	32	23	p/cldy
Bangkok	34	27	p/cldy
Beijing	27	22	showers
Beirut	37	23	sunny
Bermuda	31	28	showers
Bogota	19	11	rain
Bridgetown	31	27	storms
Brisbane	26	16	p/cldy
Buenos Aires	14	11	p/cldy
Cairo	39	25	haze
Canberra	18	7	p/cldy
Cape Town	25	8	p/cldy
Casablanca	29	18	sunny
Chicago	27	21	storms
Christchurch	13	8	showers
Colombo	30	25	rain
Damascus	38	20	sunny
Dar es Salaam	30	21	p/cldy
Dhaka	33	27	rain
Dubai	44	35	haze
Falkland Is.	7	6	rain
Harare	27	9	haze
Havana	33	23	rain
Hong Kong	32	28	storms
Honolulu	27	26	p/cldy
Jakarta	34	26	p/cldy
Jeddah	37	33	haze
Jerusalem	31	21	sunny
Johannesburg	24	6	haze
Kabul	32	18	haze
Karachi	33	27	windy
Kolkata	33	27	rain
Kuala Lumpur	32	25	storms
La Paz	15	-1	sunny
Lahore	38	29	sunny
Lima	23	20	p/cldy
Los Angeles	31	22	sunny
Maldives	33	27	cloudy
Manila	32	27	rain
Marrakesh	33	19	sunny
Melbourne	17	7	p/cldy
Miami	33	28	storms
Montego Bay	33	27	rain
Mumbai	31	27	p/cldy
Nairobi	28	10	haze
New Orleans	32	24	storms
New Delhi	34	26	storms
New York	25	18	sunny
Ottawa	23	13	p/cldy
Perth	19	12	rain
Port-of-Spain	29	25	storms
Rio de Janeiro	24	20	cloudy
Riyadh	45	28	sunny
San Francisco	17	13	p/cldy
Santiago	12	11	showers
Seattle	16	14	p/cldy
Seoul	31	24	cloudy
Seychelles	30	26	cloudy
Singapore	31	25	showers
Sydney	21	15	showers
Taipei City	30	26	showers
Tangier	27	18	sunny
Tel Aviv	33	24	sunny
Tokyo	33	28	windy
Toronto	23	15	p/cldy
Tunis	46	26	sunny
Vancouver	19	16	p/cldy
Washington	28	19	p/cldy
Wellington	16	12	windy
Winnipeg	23	15	cloudy

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2026

Atlantic front

Noon today: Low pressure will bring scattered showers and thunderstorms to the United Kingdom, Ireland, France and the Iberian Peninsula.

Sun & moon (Greenwich)

Sun rises	0606
Sun sets	1959
Moon rises	1945
Moon sets	0500
Full moon	Aug 29

Yesterday

Warmest	Brize Norton 28C (82F)
Coldest	Aberdeen 12°C (1°F)
Wettest	Omagh 0.56 in.
Sunniest	Stornoway 11.8 hr.

Lighting up

Aberdeen	2019 to 0602
Belfast	2029 to 0624
Birmingham	2007 to 0612
London	1959 to 0608
Manchester	2010 to 0612
Penzance	2017 to 0631

High water

Aberdeen	0038	4.0m	1311	3.9m
Belfast	1047	3.1m	2254	3.4m
Cardiff	0625	11.2m	1844	11.7m
Dover	1038	6.3m	2252	6.3m
Falmouth	0445	4.7m	1656	5.0m
Harwich	1119	3.8m	2346	3.8m
Holyhead	1000	5.1m	2204	5.5m
Hull	0531	7.0m	1809	6.8m
Liverpool	1045	8.6m	2253	9.1m
London	0114	6.6m	1332	6.6m
Portsmouth	1508	4.5m	2312	4.4m
Southampton	0040	3.8m	1013	4.3m

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Pollen count

Fungal spores are high. Weed pollen is moderate. Tree and grass pollen are low.

Produced by the National Pollen and Aerobiology Research Unit

Sea forecast

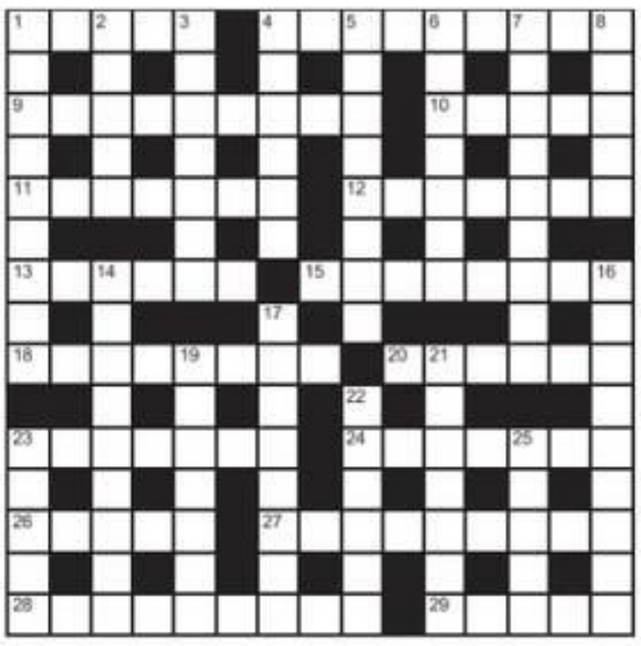
S North Sea: A gentle to fresh east-southeasterly wind today. Seas will be moderate. Visibility will be poor.

Dover Strait, English Channel: A moderate to strong southerly wind today. Seas will be rough on the east and will be very rough on the west. Visibility will be poor.

St. George's Channel: A light to gentle east-southeasterly wind today. Seas will be high. Visibility will be poor.

Irish Sea: A light to moderate northeasterly wind today. Seas will be very rough. Visibility will be poor.

Crossword 31,329 telegraph.co.uk/puzzles



Across

1 Goods vehicle approaching pass (5)
4 One buys almost neat second drink (9)
9 Unfortunately borstal's a handicap (9)
10 Pole's small hard behind (5)
11 Pale following motorway blunder (7)
12 Grand record with Queen sparkle (7)
13 Assemble Mercedes securing badge (6)
15 Carp about always getting agitated (8)
18 In earnest, and in general upright (8)
20 Head of drink on drink (6)
23 Break mineral aggregate for rebuild (7)
24 Studio devoured story, director's last (7)
26 Twitch from fish on slab's top (5)
27 Working empty parable into sermon (9)
28 Sign-off used in letter from bank (9)
29 Teak settee oddly shows discernment (5)

Down

1 Unappealing church lacking some members? (9)
2 Perhaps mug's clothing sweetheart in dresses (5)
3 Shock from right in power failure (7)
4 Fake passion's first with sweetheart (6)
5 Grass suppressing evidence gave up (8)
6 Opposed upright member supporting House (7)
7 Surprising bird protecting nest, finally (9)
8 What goes round, up and down? (5)
14 Sailor saw a bit on travelling (9)
16 Back sprint including new hurdle (9)
17 Stake bound for fast runner (8)
19 See old Church saint in decline (7)
21 Extravagantly perform part of lover, actually (7)
22 Security, for example, checking iron temperature (6)
23 Exploits following Romeo's wiles (5)
25 One struggles seeing climbers (5)

Can't see the answer?
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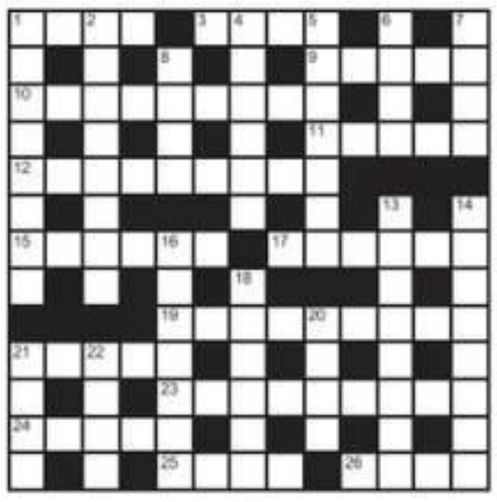
Help with today's clues Single clues **0905 757 0120.** All Across/Down clues **0905 757 0121.** Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon-Fri. SP: Speke – Helpline **0333 202 3390.**

Quick Crossword

Across

1 *Pitcher* (4)
3 *Enemies* (4)
9 Likely (5)
10 Excite (9)
11 Swindle (5)
12 Build (9)
15 Necessary (6)
17 Facade (6)
19 Quarantine (9)
21 Fake (5)
23 Begin (9)
24 Trophy (5)
25 Therefore (4)
26 Expensive (4)



Down

1 Attractive (8)
2 Lengthy (8)
4 Unclear (6)
5 Phantom (7)
6 Cipher (4)
7 Optimum (4)
8 Apartment (4)
13 Fragile (8)
14 Majesty (8)
16 Instalment (7)
18 Arrival (6)
20 Eager (4)
21 Ray (4)
22 Target (4)

Help with today's Quick Crossword clues Single clues **0905 757 0122.** Solution **0905 757 0123.** Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon-Sat. SP: Speke – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

Yesterday's Quick Crossword Solution

Across: 1 Bodice, 5 Lamb, *(Body slam)* 8 Half, 9 Clemency, 10 Nelson, 11 Listen, 12 Undergrowth, 15 Icecap, 17 Agenda, 19 Integral, 20 Tier, 21 Hymn, 22 Needle.
Down: 2 Orate, 3 Infused, 4 Ex-con, 5 Leeds, 6 Macbeth, 7 Cellar, 12 Uncanny, 13 Report, 14 Wrestle, 16 Clean, 17 All in, 18 Dwell.

Solution No 31,328

P	A	R	A	S	O	L	■	P	R	O	S	A	I	C
U	■	E	■	U	■	O	■	L	■	P	■	C	■	H
M	U	G	U	P	■	C	H	I	H	U	A	H	U	A
I	■	I	■	E	■	U	■	M	■	S	■	I	■	M
C	O	M	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	■	B	L	I	P
E	■	E	■	V	■	■	■	O	■	A	■	L	■	I
■	■	■	M	I	C	H	E	L	A	N	G	E	L	O
I	■	T	■	S	■	A	■	L	■	N	■	S	■	N
S	C	H	O	O	L	M	A	S	T	E	R	■	■	■
T	■	U	■	R	■	F	■	■	■	B	■	T	■	V
A	R	M	Y	■	L	I	G	H	T	O	P	E	R	A
N	■	B	■	E	■	S	■	A	■	L	■	N	■	N
B	A	S	E	M	E	T	A	L	■	E	N	N	U	I
U	■	U	■	M	■	E	■	V	■	Y	■	I	■	T
L	A	P	L	A	N	D	■	A	M	N	E	S	T	Y

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